



433rd REPORT OF THE ACADEMIC POLICY COMMITTEE TO SENATE
on APC meetings held on 10th and 24th November 2011 (or as indicated)

I. TO BE APPROVED BY SENATE

(A) NEW TEACHING PROGRAMS REQUIRING SENATE APPROVAL (approvals of new minors and options added to existing programs and major revisions to programs are reported in Section IV.A.1.a. for information) - *none*

(B) ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE ISSUES / POLICIES / GOVERNANCE/AWARDS - *none*

(C) CREATION OF NEW UNITS / NAME CHANGES / REPORTING CHANGES - *none*

(D) CHANGES IN DEGREE DESIGNATION - *none*

II. TO BE ENDORSED BY SENATE / PRESENTED TO SENATE FOR DISCUSSION

Revised Thesis Review Procedures

At the Senate meeting held on 19th October 2011, a motion proposed by Law Professors Richard Gold and Richard Janda regarding Revised Thesis Review Procedures, which had been implemented by the Graduate Studies Office as of 1st September 2011, was referred for consideration to the Academic Policy Committee. At a meeting on 10th November 2011, the Chair (Provost Anthony Masi) advised APC that it was appropriate for Senate and APC to be concerned about the new procedures to the extent to which their implementation might contravene McGill's existing policy regarding external Ph.D. thesis reviews. APC considered two specific questions: Was there sufficient consultation leading to the implementation of the new procedures? Do the new procedures on how external reviewers are chosen create a conflict of interest?

Following due deliberation, APC concluded that the new procedures:

- were the result of extensive, comprehensive consultation with all major stakeholders, and the consultations followed the appropriate pathways;
- were seen to enhance the policy that requires external reviews of Ph.D. theses to avoid conflicts of interest;
- while depending on goodwill, academic responsibility and professional integrity, alleviate conflict of interest concerns by clearly identifying what constitutes conflict of interest;
- allow appropriate freedom in the selection of external reviewers and latitude in the way they are selected;
- give increased flexibility to units in choosing the most qualified thesis examiners;
- ensure greater consistency across units;
- have increased effectiveness and efficiency, streamlining examination procedures that provide for speedier thesis review process, while maintaining quality assurance;
- are consistent with procedures at other universities, namely in Canada and the U.K.

In summary, APC's position is that the new procedures implemented as of 1st September 2011 meet the requirements of the policy requiring external Ph.D. theses reviews, avoid conflicts of interest, and their suspension would not serve the interests of students.

III. APPROVED BY APC IN THE NAME OF SENATE

(A) DEFINITIONS – *none*

(B) STUDENT EXCHANGE PARTNERSHIPS / CONTRACTS / INTERUNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS - *none*

IV. FOR THE INFORMATION OF SENATE

(A) APPROVAL OF COURSES AND TEACHING PROGRAMS

1. Programs

a) APC approvals (new options/concentrations and major revisions to existing programs)

i. New concentrations/options within existing programs

This option should have been reported in APC's 424th Report to Senate (D10-21, 8th December 2010)

Faculty of Medicine

M.Sc. in Human Genetics – Bioethics Option (45 cr.)

At a meeting on 11th November 2010, APC approved the creation of a Bioethics Option in the M.Sc. in Human Genetics, which is a research degree. A specialization in Bioethics, supported by the Biomedical Ethics Unit, has been offered since 1992 through the Faculty of Medicine (Department of Experimental Medicine), the Faculty of Religious Studies, the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Arts (Department of Philosophy). The Master's Option is intended to foster the development of an interdisciplinary area of study in related fields, enabling students to interact with researchers and students in other disciplines. The Bioethics Option offers specialization training in the ethics of health research, public health, medical technology development and use, and clinical practice.

ii. Major revisions of existing programs - *none*

b) APC Subcommittee on Courses and Teaching Programs (SCTP) approvals Summary reports:
<http://www.mcgill.ca/sctp/documents/>

i. Moderate and minor program revisions (*approved by SCTP, 17th November 2011*)

Faculty of Arts

B.A.; World Cinemas; Minor Concentration (18 cr.)

Faculty of Science

B.Sc.; Neuroscience; Major (65 cr.)

B.Sc.; Pharmacology; Major (65 cr.)

B.Sc.; Pharmacology; Honours (74 cr.)

B.Sc.; Computer Science; Minor (24 cr.)

B.Sc.; Liberal Program - Core Science Component in Software Engineering (48-49 cr.)

B.Sc.; Computer Science; Major (60-63 cr.)

B.Sc.; Computer Science and Biology; Joint Major (69-73 cr.)

B.Sc.; Computer Science; Honours (72-75 cr.)

B.A.& Sc.; Computer Science; Major Concentration (36 cr.)

ii. Program retirements - *none*

2. Courses (*SCTP meeting dates, as indicated*)

a) New Courses:

Faculty of Medicine: 1 (17th Nov)
Schulich School of Music: 1 (17th Nov)

b) Course Revisions:

Faculty of Medicine: 4 (17th Nov);
Faculty of Science: 9 (17th Nov).

c) Course retirements:

Faculty of Science: 14 (17th Nov).

(B) OTHER – *none*