

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE GRADUATE CURRICULUM, POLICY, ADMISSIONS AND STUDY
COMMITTEE**

APRIL 12, 2010, 9:00 A.M.

MUSC-224

PRESENT: Dr. D. Welch (Chair), Dr. A. Bédard, Dr. A. Capretta, Ms. M. Chakra, Dr. K. Dalnoki-Veress, Dr. N. Kevlahan, Dr. B. Milliken, Mr. P. Self, Mrs. M. Espiritu (Assistant Secretary)

BY INVITATION: Dr. A. Adronov, Dr. M. Gibala

I. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of April 13, 2009 were approved on a motion by Dr. Kevlahan, seconded by Dr. Milliken.

II. Business arising

There was no business arising from the minutes of the previous meeting.

III. Graduate Curriculum Revisions

Biology

Dr. Bédard reviewed the proposed cancellation of courses from the Department of Biology:

- *6U03 – Radiation Biology and Radiation Biophysics
- *751 – Fish Physiology

Dr. Bédard explained that the equivalent undergraduate course, 4U03, has been transferred to the Department of Medical Physics. As such, the graduate course component will no longer be part of the Biology graduate courses.

Dr. Bédard stated that *751 has not been offered in over three years, and there are five other graduate physiology courses that are offered by the department.

Dr. Bédard moved, and Dr. Kevlahan seconded,

“that the Faculty of Science Graduate Curriculum, Policy, Admissions and Study Committee approve the proposed cancellation of courses *6U03 and *751 in the Department of Biology.”

The motion was carried.

Medical Physics

As there was no representative from the Department of Medical Physics and Applied Radiation Sciences, Dr. Bédard presented the proposal to transfer the course, *6U03 – Radiation Biology and Radiation Biophysics, from the Biology Department to the Medical Physics and Applied Radiation Sciences Department. Dr. Bédard explained that Dr. Andrew Rainbow will teach the course until his retirement.

Dr. Bédard moved, and Dr. Kevlahan seconded,

“that the Faculty of Science Graduate Curriculum, Policy, Admissions and Study Committee approve the transfer of *6U03 – Radiation Biology and Radiation Biophysics to the Department of Medical Physics and Applied Radiation Sciences, as described in the document.”

The motion was carried.

Kinesiology

Dr. Gibala discussed the proposed new course, *722 – Advances in Biomechanics and Electromyography. The objective of the course is to develop students' appraisal skills in reading primary research articles and research-based presentations, and scientific writing.

Dr. Kevlahan moved, and Ms. Chakra seconded,

“that the Faculty of Science Graduate Curriculum, Policy, Admissions and Study Committee approve the new course, *722 – Advances in Biomechanics and Electromyography, as proposed by the Department of Kinesiology.”

The motion was carried.

The Department of Kinesiology has also recommended a change in course requirements for its M.Sc. and Ph.D. programs. Dr. Gibala said the department wishes to remove course *703 as a course requirement for its M.Sc. and Ph.D. programs. In addition, the department recommends that M.Sc. and Ph.D. students be expected to maintain 75% attendance at departmental seminars while in the program. Dr. Gibala further explained that the seminar attendance is a requirement when students apply for travel funds.

Dr. Dalnoki-Veress moved, and Dr. Bédard seconded,

“that the Faculty of Science Graduate Curriculum, Policy, Admissions and Study Committee approve the proposed changes to the course requirements for the M.Sc. and Ph.D. programs, as described in the document.”

Referring to the document, a member suggested removing the statement, *“Failure to attain satisfactory attendance in accordance with these guidelines will affect a student’s academic record that could prevent the student from graduating as scheduled,”* because if it is not a requirement it will be difficult for the department to convince students to attend. There was a comment as well that tying the seminar attendance to applications for travel funds is an internal policy in the department and does not need to be included in the calendar.

The motion was carried, subject to addressing the issues discussed above.

The Department of Kinesiology also proposed cancellation of course *703 – Seminars.

Dr. Kevlahan moved, and Dr. Dalnoki-Veress seconded,

“that the Faculty of Science Graduate Curriculum, Policy, Admissions and Study Committee approve the cancellation of course *703 – Seminars.”

The motion was carried.

Mathematics and Statistics

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics proposed changes to the course requirements and calendar description of its M.Sc. program in Mathematics. Dr. Kevlahan explained that during the 2009 OCGS review of the Mathematics M.Sc. and Ph.D. programs, the consultants recommended the following for the M.Sc. program:

- establish a more tangible distinction between the M.Sc. thesis option and the M.Sc. project option
- devise mechanisms by which a research/independent investigation component in the course-only M.Sc. program is guaranteed
- ensure that a course-only Master’s student who does not finish in eight months is looked after academically between May and August

To address these issues, Dr. Kevlahan explained that the department proposed merging the project with the coursework option and adding a Major Research Project to the new project option. Dr. Kevlahan said that seven half courses are required for the new project option, and one of these courses is *790 – Major Research Project. He further said that students are expected to finish the requirements for the project option in eight months and the M.Sc. project to be completed in twelve months. Dr. Kevlahan added that all project students will have a faculty advisor through the course, *790, and this will address the need for supervision of those students who do not finish in eight months.

Dr. Kevlahan moved, and Dr. Bédard seconded,

“that the Faculty of Science Graduate Curriculum, Policy, Admissions and Study Committee approve the proposed changes to the course requirements and calendar description for the M.Sc. program in Mathematics, as outlined in the document.”

The motion was carried.

The department is also recommending three new courses and the cancellation of one course:

New courses:

- *731 – Algebraic – Topology I
- *732 – Algebraic – Topology II
- *790 – Major Research Project

Course cancellation:

- *763 – Algebraic Topology

Dr. Kevlahan explained that the department finds it impossible to cover in one term all the topics listed in the current description for Math *763 – Algebraic Topology. To address this issue, it was decided to create two new courses, *731 and *732, and cancel course, *763.

Dr. Kevlahan moved, and Dr. Milliken seconded,

“that the Faculty of Science Graduate Curriculum, Policy, Admissions and Study Committee approve the new courses, *731 and *732, and the cancellation of *763, as described in the documents.”

The motion was carried.

Chemistry

Dr. Adronov presented the curriculum recommendations from the Department of Chemistry. The department has recommended reducing the course requirement to zero for its Ph.D. program for the *Analytical, Organic and Physical Chemistry* sub-disciplines, while retaining the two-course (module) requirement for the *Inorganic Chemistry* sub-discipline. The change is consistent with the zero course requirements for the Ph.D. programs in Chemical Biology, Biochemistry and Biology. The change addresses the concern of having two students in the same research group with different course requirements for the program.

Dr. Capretta moved, and Dr. Dalnoki-Veress seconded,

“that the Faculty of Science Graduate Curriculum, Policy, Admissions and Study Committee approve the recommendation of the Department of Chemistry to reduce the course requirement to zero for its Ph.D. program for the *Analytical, Organic and Physical Chemistry* sub-disciplines, as outlined in the document.”

In response to a question, Dr. Adronov explained that students who do not possess a strong background in the field would be required by their supervisors to take additional courses.

The motion was carried.

In addition, the department requested the following curriculum changes:

New courses:

#781 – Spectroscopy

#784 – Physical Chemistry of Materials

#799 – Special Topics

Change in course number:

#723 – Symmetry, Physical Properties and Electronic Structure of Solids

Change in course title:

#743 – Inorganic, Structural Problems

Dr. Capretta moved, and Dr. Dalnoki-Veress seconded,

“that the Faculty of Science Graduate Curriculum, Policy, Admissions and Study Committee approve the new courses (#781, #784, #799), change in course number for #723, and change in course title for #743.”

The motion was carried.

In addition, the department requested to cancel the following courses: 600-level courses - *6A03, *6B03, *6F03, *6Q03, *6S03 (total 5 courses)

700-level courses - #704, #705, #706, #710, #712, #713, #714, #715, #720, #722, #723, #724, #726, #731, #732, #733, #735, #738, #739, #742, #744, #747, #748, #750, #751, #755, #756, #757, #759, #761, #762, #766, #767, #768, #771, #774, #775, #777, #779, #780, #782, #783, #790 (total 43 courses)

Dr. Kevlahan moved, and Dr. Milliken seconded,

“that the Faculty of Science Graduate Curriculum, Policy, Admissions and Study Committee approve the cancellation of the above mentioned courses.”

The motion was carried.

Upon reviewing the proposed new 600-level courses and the changes to existing 600-level courses, the curriculum committee noted that the information pertaining to the method of evaluation for these courses is not sufficient. It was then decided to postpone approval of these courses. Dr. Welch said an e-mail ballot will be conducted among the members once the information requested by the committee has been received.

Psychology

The Department of Psychology requested to change the description of course *770 – Advanced Analysis of Survey Data, and convert it to a half course.

Dr. Milliken moved, and Dr. Dalnoki-Veress seconded,

“that the Faculty of Science Graduate Curriculum, Policy, Admissions and Study Committee approve the changes recommended for course *770, as mentioned above.”

The motion was carried.

Geography and Earth Sciences

In the absence of a representative from the School of Geography and Earth Sciences, Dr. Welch presented the following curriculum changes:

New course:

*757 – Advanced Statistical and Data Driven Methods in Hydrology

Change to half course and description:

*770 – Advanced Analysis of Survey Data

Course cancellation:

*708 – Research and Communications in GeoScience

*723 – Research and Communications in Human Geography

Dr. Milliken moved, and Dr. Dalnoki-Veress seconded,

“that the Faculty of Science Graduate Curriculum, Policy, Admissions and Study Committee approve the proposed curriculum changes from the School of Geography and Earth Sciences, as mentioned above.”

The motion was carried.

There was no other business, and the meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.