

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE GRADUATE CURRICULUM, POLICY, ADMISSIONS AND STUDY  
COMMITTEE  
MARCH 22, 2012, 11:00 A.M.  
MUSC-311**

**PRESENT:** Dr. D. Welch (Chair), Ms. S. Baschiera (Secretary), Dr. P. Bennett, Dr. A. Chen,  
Dr. T. Farrell, Dr. S. Phillips, Mrs. M. Espiritu (Assistant Secretary)

**BY INVITATION:** Dr. R. Pudritz

**REGRETS:** Dr. A. Adronov, Dr. M. Kolster, Dr. J.P. Xu

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**I. M.Sc. and Ph.D. collaborative programs in Astrobiology**

Dr. Welch invited Dr. Pudritz to speak about the proposed M.Sc. and Ph.D. programs in Astrobiology. Dr. Pudritz explained that there is a growing interest in astrobiology programs at the graduate level in the U.S. The University of Washington (Seattle) and Penn State are the leading universities in the U.S. which offer collaborative astrobiology programs, accepting an average of five Ph.D. students per year. Other universities such as University of Arizona, Montana State University, and Arizona State University have started similar programs. Dr. Pudritz said the proposed program will attract students not only in Ontario, but across Canada because it is the first such program that will be established in the country. The program will be offered on a full-time basis. Part-time enrolment is possible in special circumstances. The following departments will be involved in the collaborative program: Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences, Biology, Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Physics and Astronomy, and the School of Geography and Earth Sciences.

Dr. Chen moved, and Dr. Farrell seconded,

**“that the Faculty of Science Graduate Curriculum, Policy, Admissions and Study Committee approve the proposed M.Sc. and Ph.D. collaborative programs in Astrobiology, as described in the document.”**

In response to a question, Dr. Pudritz said there are already two students in the department who are quite interested to enrol in the program once it has been established.

The motion was carried.

**II. Change in name for the School of Computational Engineering and Science**

In the absence of Dr. Protas, Dr. Welch explained that the move of the School of Computational Engineering and Science to the Faculty of Science necessitated the change in its name to “School of Computational Science and Engineering.”

Dr. Farrell moved, and Dr. Phillips seconded,

**“that the Faculty of Science Graduate Curriculum, Policy, Admissions and Study Committee approve the change in name of the School of Computational Engineering and Science to “School of Computational Science and Engineering.”**

The motion was carried.

The proposal to change the degree names has been withdrawn from the agenda.

There was no other business and the meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.