

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
Meeting of Faculty  
Tuesday, 10 January, 2017  
Leacock Council Room - L232**

**ATTENDANCE:** As recorded in the Faculty Appendix Book

**DOCUMENTS:** S-16-18 - S-16-19

Dean Lennox called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**1) ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

Prof. Damha **moved**, seconded by Prof. Gyakum, that the Agenda be adopted.

**The motion carried.**

**2) MINUTES OF 15 NOVEMBER, 2016**

**S-16-18**

Prof. McKenzie **moved**, seconded by Prof. Zuroff, that the Minutes be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**3) BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Dean Lennox informed that the RVH proposal has been sent to Quebec for consultation and approval. He said this proposal is a high-level document that has the academic plan at its core and that he will share this plan with the Faculty Council once it is approved.

Dean Lennox said that the Stewart Biology project is also proceeding. He said that official notification of funding was received in December of 2016 from both the federal and provincial governments and that the architects are undertaking plans to create new Stewart-West wing of the building. He noted that the current plan is to empty Stewart-West in mid-to-late April.

**4) REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

- Academic Committee



become an integral part of most of the current biophysics streams created in many departments (physics, chemistry and biology).

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Professor Mittermaier, that the new course be approved.

**The motion carried.**

## **SECTION B: NEW PROGRAMS**

### **(1) Chemistry**

Major in Chemistry - Biophysical Chemistry Option **AC-16-34**  
Honours in Chemistry - Biophysical Chemistry Option **AC-16-35**

Associate Dean Western said that, in order to fully capitalize on the large and ongoing investments in biophysical research and education made by many of the Departments in the Faculty of Science, the departments of Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Physiology, Math, and Computer Science have developed an integrated Biophysics undergraduate teaching and recruitment strategy. She further explained that, as part of this initiative, the Department of Chemistry is proposing a new Biophysical Chemistry Option for its Majors program. She said that the admissions standards are identical to those of the Regular Chemistry Major program. Finally, Associate Dean Western said that Chemistry Department recently reviewed its programs and retired the BSc Liberal Program ± Chemistry ± Physical, which was under-utilized but that all other programs in the Chemistry Department were found to have healthy enrollment.

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Professor Mittermaier, that the two new program options be approved.

**The motion carried.**

### **(2) Physics**

Major in Physics - Biological Physics Option **AC-16-38**  
Honours in Physics - Biological Physics Option **AC-16-39**

Associate Dean Western said that the Physics Department has recently hired several biological physicists, and there is a growing interest, among both

The motion carried.

**SECTION C: COURSE REVISIONS**

**(1) Geography**

GEOG 504	Advanced Economic Geography Title, Description 3 credits	<b>AC-16-44 PRN 11767</b>
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Associate Dean Western said that the existing course name (Industrial Restructuring: Geographic Implications) reflects the main theme of economic geography back in the 1980s. She said that the discipline has changed significantly since then and the new, more simple title of 'Advanced Economic \* H R J U D S i e c t s the fact that we have moved on to other things than μ L Q G X V W U L D O U H V W U X She said the course will deal with more contemporary topics, debates and concepts in economic geography such as evolutionary economic geography, innovation and technological change, global production networks and geographies of inequality.

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Professor Lerner, that the course revision be approved.

The motion carried.

**(2) Chemistry**

CHEM 603	Fundamentals of Spectroscopy Title, Description, Prerequisites 5 credits	<b>AC-16-42 PRN 11842</b>
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Associate Dean Western said that students are very interested in a course on the fundamentals of spectroscopy, but that the very narrow focus on just vibrational spectroscopy does not reflect where the field

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Professor Fussmann, that the program revision be approved.

**The motion carried.**

Honours in Biology - Quantitative Biology Option

**AC-16-32**

Associate Dean Western explained that this revision combines two types of changes. She said the first is the harmonization of the program organization with the new Bio-physical umbrella in order to better highlight the relationships and commonalities among multidisciplinary life-science programs. This includes

Complementary list into the Required list. Lastly, Associate Dean Western said that BIOL 316 and BIOL 495 are removed from the complementary courses as both are likely to be discontinued in the near future. Finally, Associate Dean Western pointed out that the program title is corrected to read Joint Major and Joint Honours, as is more appropriate.

Associate Dean Western **moved**, seconded by Professor Fussmann, that the program revisions be approved.

**The motion carried.**

**(3) Physiology**

Joint Major in Physiology & Mathematics

**AC-16-40**

Associate Dean Western said that this revision combines four types of changes. First, she said that the harmonization of the program organization with the new Bio-physical umbrella in order to better highlight the relationships and commonalities among multidisciplinary life-science programs. This includes that BIOL 200 and BIOL 201/BIOC 212 are replaced with the more interdisciplinary BIOL 219, the addition of interdisciplinary seminar course BIOL 395, and the addition of introductory programming courses as suggested as part of the Bio-Physical Sciences core. Second, she said that, due to the significant neurophysiology content of both PHGY 311 and PHGY 314,

Associate Dean Western said that this Major has not been substantially changed since its

across six departments and said they were a wonderful example of the care required in creating new structures in response to student interests. Associate Dean Western thanked all the committee members for their hard work. In addition to Associate Dean Western, these members are Professors Vogel in Biology, Mittermaier in Chemistry, Blanchette in the School of Computer Science, Kelome in Mathematics and Statistics, Francois in Physics and Khadra in Physiology. She also thanked Professors Guevara and Guichard who helped with specific programs. Finally, Dean Lennox said the Faculty of Science would need the help of both individual students and student societies to get the word out. He said the Faculty is open to organizing information session explaining this new structure should students be interested.

**5) DEAN'S BUSINESS**

**a) Announcements**

Dean Lennox gave his kudos to a number of his colleagues in the Faculty of Science



## 7) REPORTS OF ASSOCIATE DEANS

### a) Director of Advising Nicole Allard

Director Allard reminded instructors administering departmental Finals that some students may be simultaneously writing their exam with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) and, if they notice errors on the exam or need to make any other announcements during the exam, they should notify the OSD office. She also said instructors should have their cell phones with them so that students in the OSD office could contact them with questions regarding the exam. Dean Lennox underscored the importance of working with the OSD and asked that Faculty members please pass this information along to their colleagues.

She also said that the graduation exercise would soon be underway and noted that, as such, the SOUSA office's response rate to inquiries may be slower than normal.

### b) Associate Dean (Research) Doina Precup

Associate Dean Precup noted a number of Fessenden Awards for the Faculty of Science: first Prof. Lovejoy of Physics and Prof. Cosa of Chemistry, second Prof. Moitessier of Chemistry, and third Joshua Patel of Chemistry. Dean Lennox noted that the Fessenden initiatives to promote innovation are possible thanks to gifts by the family of Canadian inventor Reginald Fessenden, notably Dr. John Blatchford and his son Eric. Associate Dean Precup said the application process will be streamlined in the future.

Associate Dean Precup noted that, following the Lightning Talk events, the McGill Sustainability Sciences and Technologies Initiative (SSTI) is now soliciting suggestions for SSTI Grand Challenges. She said the SSTI will provide support and seed funding for transdisciplinary teams to address some of the most complex problems facing humanity as we strive to create a world that ensures the prosperity of people today without endangering the well-being of our neighbours or our future generations. Dean Lennox noted that these problems, which are far too complex and too wide in scope and scale to be addressed by existing discipline-based research structures, are sustainability Grand Challenges and that answering these questions requires working across disciplines in new institutional configurations.

Finally, Associate Dean Precup said there will be a town hall on January 30, 2017 for McGill's Healthy Brains for Healthy Lives program. She said the town hall will be held in the McGill Centre for Applied Health Research and Promotion (MCHRP) on the 3rd floor of the 380 University Street building.

The Board of Governors approved the Policy Against Sexual Violence approved by Senate in November. She also indicated that the new REM project will eventually link the Mac Campus and the Univ. of Montreal saving much time for commuters.

The Faculty internship programmer brought a question from Senators Ettlín and Sobat. It mainly concerned credit for Arts students and there was no clear conclusion.

VP Yalovsky presented the annual report on the financial state of the University and more will be forthcoming from the new VP Finance in January.