



Faculty of Science

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FACULTY OF SCIENCE FACULTY COUNCIL OF SCIENCE MINUTES OF MEETING OF OCTOBER 17, 2018

A meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science was held on Wednesday, October 17, at 1:00 p.m. in room C-2045.

FSC 2623

Present

Biochemistry

M. Berry, V. Booth, J. Brunton, S. Harding, M. Mulligan

Biology

B. Staveley

Chemistry

C. Bottaro, C. Flinn, E. Merschrod

Computer Science

S. Bungay

Earth Sciences

J. Hanchar

Mathematics and Statistics

I. Booth, R. Haynes, JC Loredano-Osti, S. Mantyka, D. Pike, S. Sullivan

Ocean Sciences

G. Fletcher, J. Wroblewski

Physics & Physical Oceanography

S. Curnoe, M. Evstigneev, M. Morrow, J. Munroe, K. Poduska, I. Saika-Voivod

Psychology

C. Thorpe

Dean of Science Office

M. Abrahams, G. Kenny, T. Mackenzie, L. Zedel,

Students

P. Isesele, A. Mahmood, M. Saeed

FSC 2624

Regrets

A. Bates, G. Bodwell, S. Caines, N. Catto, A. Hossain, M. Stordy, A. Todd

FSC 2625

Adoption of Minutes

Moved: Minutes of September 19, 2018, meeting be adopted (Berry/Fletcher).

One Abstention. Carried.

FSC 2626

Business Arising: None

FSC 2627

Correspondence: None

FSC 2628

Reports of Standing Committees:

A.

Undergraduate Studies Committee:

Presented by Shannon Sullivan, Chair, Undergraduate Studies Committee.

a. Moved: Department of Computer Science, proposal for a new course, COMP 3100, Web Programming. (Sullivan/Bungay). **Carried.**

b. Department of Biochemistry, proposal for a Special Topics course, BIOC 4231, Molecular Biology of the Bacterial-Human Interface, approved by the committee and presented to Faculty Council for information only.

B.

Graduate Studies Committee:

Presented by Len Zedel, Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies.

a. Moved: Department of Ocean Sciences, proposed calendar changes for Marine Biology M.Sc. and PhD programs, with a change in the wording since the initial submission. The department changed “ecology and evolution” to “marine ecology and evolution”. (Zedel/Fletcher). **Carried.**

C.

Nominating Committee: None

D.

Library Committee: None

FSC 2629

Report of Teaching Consultant: None

FSC 2630

Reports of Delegates from Other Councils: None

FSC 2631

Report of the Dean

Presented by Mark Abrahams, Dean of Science.

1. A large proportion of my time since last we met has been spent in collective bargaining with the Faculty Association. As a consequence my report is relatively brief, but I do hope that we now have an agreement that is acceptable to both parties.
2. Departments within the Faculty of Science hosted two public lectures this month, the Laird and Canning Lectures. The Laird Lecture given by Dr. Sarah Seager from MIT was on “Exoplanets and the Search for Habitable Worlds” and the Canning Lecture was given by Dr. Stephanie Jones from Harvard University on “The Science and Practice of Social, Emotional, and Character Development in Schools”. Both were excellent and well attended and I

congratulate the nominators and the organizers. Please note that these lecture series are funded through endowed gifts to the university and I encourage faculty to insure that they take advantage of the opportunity.

3. From October 9 to 12 Memorial University hosted the first meeting of the Ocean Frontier Institute (OFI). The OFI was funded through the Canada First Research Excellence Fund to Memorial, Dalhousie, and the University of Prince Edward Island. This meeting was intended to integrate the researchers involved in this project, and our research partners in academia, government, industry and non-governmental organizations. It was also intended to discuss the types of projects that should be funded through the second phase of research grants, and our integration with the Ocean SuperCluster.
4. I am now sitting on the University Building Committee Working Group. Our job is to figure out how to deal with the potential demolition of the Science Building that will involve the relocation of the Psychology Department, reconfiguration of the Chemistry Physics building that will impact the Physics Department, and dealing with the loss of classroom space in the Science building.
5. I have been appointed to sit on the Complement Advisory Committee that is intended to address issues associated with reductions in faculty positions associated with the Voluntary Retirement Program.

FSC 2632 Question Period:

The Dean confirmed that, in his role on the University Building Committee Working Group, he is advocating for better space for the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

There was discussion around ITS expanding to take over departmental computer support staff work within the Faculty of Science. The Dean assured the departments that there are no plans to make any such changes.

The Dean addressed the question of the current plan regarding MUN's size. There are no plans to increase the size of Memorial, given the current climate, but there is a move to reduce costs by controlling the size of MUN. Dr. Abrahams along with other Deans will work to ensure there will be no decrease in the core academic units.

The Dean will check with Dr. Fridgen about the WHMIS recertification required of all faculty, staff and students prior to December 2018. The understanding was that the updated module would be available in early October, but it is apparently still not available.

The Dean confirmed there were 13 approved applications from faculty and 2 approved applications from staff for the Voluntary Retirement Program.

FSC 2633 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.