



Faculty of Science

Office of the Dean
St. John's, NL Canada A1B 3X7
Tel: 709 864 8154 Fax: 709 864 3316
deansci@mun.ca www.mun.ca/science

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
FACULTY COUNCIL OF SCIENCE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2019**

A meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science was held on Wednesday, September 18, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. in room C-2045.

FSC 2686

Present

Biochemistry

M. Berry, R. Bertolo, J. Brunton, S. Harding

Biology

T. Chapman, B. Staveley

Chemistry

C. Bottaro

Computer Science

E. Brown

Earth Sciences

G. Dunning

Mathematics & Statistics

I. Booth, C. Cigsar, D. Dyer, R. Haynes, J.C. Loredó-Osti, S. Mantyka, D. Pike, Y. Yilmaz

Physics & Physical Oceanography

S. Curnoe, M. Morrow, K. Poduska

Psychology

C. Thorpe, C. Walsh

Dean of Science Office

K. Foss, T. Fridgen, G. Jackson, L. Zedel

CITL

A. Todd

Staff

C. Deacon, A. Langille, B. Power, T. Stuckless

Graduate Students

A. Akerele, A. Alfosool, K. Hall, J. Lamarre, Y. Lim

Undergraduate Students

D. Cameron-McKenna, H. Elazab,

FSC 2687 Regrets

K. Fowler, S. Sullivan

FSC 2688

Item 7 in the Agenda will not be discussed today, but will be brought forward in a future meeting.

FSC 2689

Adoption of Minutes

Moved: Minutes of the May 15, 2019, meeting be adopted (Berry/Walsh). **Carried.**

FSC 2690

Business Arising:

The May 2019 minutes referenced that the University Building Committee was reviewing the Henrietta Harvey Building and a full recommendation of the committee will go to the Board of Regents during summer 2019. The committee is looking at new space for the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, as well as what to do with the Science building. It is investigating the possibility of tearing down three-quarters of the Science building and keeping the quarter with the larger lecture theatre. There is the possibility of a rebuild of the 3rd and 4th floors, which could be a location for the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. A feasibility study is being conducted which involves a class D estimate to determine the cost; it is hoped that the savings from the maintenance on the science building can be used to fund the construction of the project. This is just a study at this point and not a plan; however, the University working group is tasked with developing a plan for the Science building. This update is a less than satisfactory response for Ron Haynes.

The roof repairs of the Henrietta Harvey are happening in two phases: the first is the asbestos abatement and the second is the tender for the roof repair. Currently, the Dean's office is working with the Head of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics to find swing space for members of the department that must be relocated during the work. The proposed plan is to have the work completed in six phases, but if we can reduce the number of phases hopefully we can reduce the time of the project. The anticipated time for the asbestos abatement is approximately twelve weeks. FM will not do the roof repairs in the winter so the tender will not be issued until probably early winter so that the work can commence as early as possible in spring. Ron Haynes is concerned that FM may need to hire a consultant to prepare the tender, which could delay the project even further.

FSC 2691

Correspondence: None

FSC 2692

Reports of Standing Committees:

A. Undergraduate Studies Committee:

Presented by Travis Fridgen, Associate Dean (Administration and Undergraduate)

Calendar change deadlines for the 2020-2021 Calendar are fast approaching. Faculty Council will need to consider any changes from units in Science no later than its meeting on December 4th. The last Undergraduate Studies Committee meeting for which they can be on the agenda will, therefore, occur no later than November 22nd. Bearing in mind that Calendar changes require at least a 4-week consultation period, that means they should have the approval of the proposing Department by October 25th.

The Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies has now endorsed a revised Student Health Certificate (SHC) to replace the former Student Medical Certificate. It's now available on the Registrar's Office website. The SHC is intended to much more effectively capture student health information relevant to academic decision-making, without inappropriately infringing on student privacy. Calendar changes to formally require the SHC in cases where medical documentation is needed was approved by Senate in May and will appear in next year's Calendar. All departments and faculty members are strongly encouraged to begin directing students to use the SHC as of now.

B. Graduate Studies Committee:

Presented by Carolyn Walsh, Chair, Graduate Studies Committee

- a. Department of Computer Science, special topics course, COMP 6774, Data Visualization, approved by the committee and presented to faculty Council for information only.
- b. **Moved:** Department of Biochemistry, calendar changes, MSc Oral Defence, (Walsh/Berry). **One opposed. One abstention. Carried.**

C. Nominating Committee: None**D. Library Committee: None****FSC 2693**

Moved: Travis Fridgen presented the Faculty Council Matrix. (Fridgen/Chapman).
Carried

FSC 2694**Report of the Dean**

Presented by Mark Abrahams, Dean

1. I am pleased to welcome you all back for the new academic year, and in particular I am pleased to welcome our new faculty and students.
2. On a personal note, I wanted to advise Science council that my term has been extended to the end of April 2021. The reason for the extension was that the provost did not want to undertake a search for a new dean of science while the presidential search is underway. It will also provide me with the additional time to see the construction and move into the Core Science Facility next year.

3. As I will be spending more time in this role than I had planned, I am hoping to once again visit with all academic departments during this academic year.
4. I also wanted to thank all those that participated in our annual Faculty of Science awards event that was held on Monday evening, and particularly those in my office that organized this event. Those of you that attended will know we have now outgrown the Bruneau centre and will be planning for a larger venue next year. I also want to congratulate again all our student award winners, and Drs. Goulding, Mercier and Haynes for their awards.
5. Continuing with celebrations, Fall convocation is scheduled for Thursday, October 17. B.Sc degrees will be awarded at 10 a.m., M.Sc.'s at 3 p.m., and Ph.D's and Psy.D's at 7:30 p.m. If you want to participate in the academic procession, please confirm your participation by October 9.
6. October 30 is the date that Gina Jackson and I will be working toward for the presentation of our budget and faculty complement. I will be working with heads to get updates of departmental academic staffing plans, as well as how we will operate with budgets that are continuing to decline. One area of particular focus is to address the costs associated with teaching our curriculum, and insuring the number of teaching assignments aligns with our budget.

FSC 2695 Question Period

David Pike recently visited with former students who are completing their graduate degree at another University. The students state that, while their education from MUN was great, they tell other students not to apply to MUN due to the state of the buildings. The Department of Mathematics and Statistics has had several leaks that have ruined computers and has stalled research.

Len Zedel reminded members of Council that MUN has a collaboration with St. FX (St. Francis Xavier) in Nova Scotia, that allows students with an MSc at St. FX to attend MUN to complete their PhD and collaborate with faculty from St. FX. These are good students and there is the potential for the students to receive funds from St. FX, as well as SGS, that is over and above the normal baseline funding.

FSC 2696 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.