



**Faculty of Science**

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**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
FACULTY COUNCIL OF SCIENCE  
MINUTES OF MEETING OF FEBRUARY 19, 2020**

A meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science was held on Wednesday, February 19, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. in room C-2045.

**FSC 2729 Present**

**Biochemistry**

M. Berry, R. Bertolo, S. Harding

**Biology**

T. Chapman

**Chemistry**

E. Merschrod, S. Pansare,

**Earth Sciences**

G. Dunning, G. Layne

**Mathematics & Statistics**

R. Haynes, J.C. Loredano-Osti

**Physics & Physical Oceanography**

S. Curnoe, M. Morrow

**Psychology**

K. Fowler

**Dean of Science Office**

K. Foss, T. Fridgen, G. Jackson, R. Newhook

**Marine Institute**

S. Caines

**Staff**

C. Hyde

D. Stirling

A. Langille

## **Graduate Students**

K. Hall

**FSC 2730**

### **Regrets**

S. Mantyka, S. Sullivan

**FSC 2731**

### **Adoption of Minutes**

**Moved:** Minutes of the December 4, 2019, meeting be adopted (Bertolo/Loredo-Osti).  
**Four Abstentions. Carried.**

Clarification of Undergraduate Studies Committee item A.a: It is understood that the special topics course COMP 4820 is currently being taught by a Per-Course Instructor, but, if it was to become a regular course, it would become part of the normal load of a full-time ASM.

**FSC 2732**

**Business Arising:** None

**FSC 2733**

**Correspondence:** None

**FSC 2734**

### **Reports of Standing Committees:**

**A. Undergraduate Studies Committee:** No business.

**B. Graduate Studies Committee:** No business.

**C. Nominating Committee:** No business.

**D. Library Committee:** No business.

**FSC 2735**

### **Report of the Dean**

Presented by Mark Abrahams, Dean

1. Brown bag lunch with the Vice-President (Research) is scheduled for Friday, February 21 from 12:30 to 1:30 pm in SN-2064. No set agenda other than the opportunity to have an informal discussion with Dr. Bose.
2. Memorial is once again participating in the National Survey of Student Engagement. This survey is given to undergraduate students in the first year of study, and again during the final few months of their degree program. It is an important indicator that we use to understand the teaching and learning environment and support student success initiatives. CIAP is seeking assistance of faculty who teach first year and final year courses to make students aware of the survey and encourage them to take the

time to complete the survey. The survey will be available from February 11 to March 15.

3. The High School Advising Program will run again this year. The Academic Advising Centre will coordinate all visits and asks that they be notified by March 9 of those faculty and academic staff that will be participating. They will be holding a meeting at 12:30 pm on Wednesday, March 25 in A-1045 for those that will be involved.
4. I am continuing to work on the Postsecondary Education Review Submission that should be ready for input from other deans next week. I thank department Heads who provided me with additional information to clarify the impact of current budget cuts on academic programs. Public consultations with the review committee are scheduled at MUN for Thursday, February 27 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., 12:00 to 1:30 p.m., 2:00 to 3:30 pm in Junior Common Room of Gushue Hall, Thursday, March 5 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Faculty of Medicine (IM102), and Wednesday, March 11 from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. and 2:00 to 3:30 pm in the Junior Common Room of Gushue Hall. If you want to participate, you should register through Eventbrite.

#### **FSC 2736 Question Period**

It was queried if the meeting with the Vice-President (Research) (VPR) should be at Faculty Council rather than the current setup. The Dean informed council that he had this discussion with the Heads and they thought it would have been best to start with a meeting with the Heads and Associate Deans and then meetings with individual departments. This could be a recommendation at the meeting with the VPR.

With regards to the post-secondary review, the Dean does not have any concerns if individual groups would like to make submissions.

Ron Haynes asked whether the second half of the roof of the Henrietta Harvey building would be completed this summer. The Dean stated that the senior administration at FM indicated that the roof is their highest priority; however, the Dean will email Jason Daniels to determine if the tender has been issued for this work. The main server room for the Mathematics and Statistics department still has problems related to the air conditioning unit. The Dean will follow up with the appropriate person regarding this issue as well.

Issues regarding the order to shelter in place on Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> were discussed including late or no notifications from the MUN safe app, conflicting communications from the RNC and CEP, as well as lack of use of the emergency speaker systems to alert people in labs and large lecture theatres. The Dean recommended that any concerns be directed to the Chief Risk Officer. In addition, the Dean was not aware of any previous incidents with the person involved, which may be a result of personal privacy issues.

The Dean was unable to provide any clarity on the approval process of senior administrative positions other than that any external positions would need to have a permanent position budget associated with it.

Mark Berry asked Travis Fridgen if any progress has been made with the issue associated with having to accommodate some Blundon-registered students' midterm exam dates.

Travis reported that he had met with Catherine Shortall, Donna Hardy-Cox, and Jennifer Browne to obtain clarity with this accommodation. The response is that the current practice of making up missed midterm marks on the final exam is within the umbrella of universal design, but ultimately it is up to the instructor whether to make the accommodation or to increase the percentage of the final exam. We are encouraged to think about other ways to accommodate any students who are ill for midterm exams.

**FSC 2737**

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:27p.m.