



**Faculty of Science**

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**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
FACULTY COUNCIL OF SCIENCE  
MINUTES OF MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2020**

A meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science was held on Wednesday, September 16, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. using Webex.

**FSC 2783**

**Present**

**Biochemistry**

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

**Biology**

J. Burke, S. Dufour, J. Roncal

**Chemistry**

C. Bottaro, C. Deacon, E. Merschrod, S. Pansare, B. Power, A. Sheppard

**Computer Science**

J. Friesen, O. Meruvia-Pastor

**Earth Sciences**

A. Langille, G. Layne, A. Malcolm

**Mathematics & Statistics**

I. Booth, J. Craighead, J. Dawe, D. Harvey, R. Haynes, JC Loredó-Osti, S. Mantyka, D. Pike, T. Stuckless, S. Sullivan, A. Variyath

**Ocean Sciences**

G. Fletcher

**Physics & Physical Oceanography**

V. Booth, E. Demirov, J. LeBlanc, M. Morrow, J. Munroe, K. Podusk, I. Saika-Voivod

**Dean of Science Office**

C. Barrett, J. Blundell, S. Bungay, C. Evans, K. Foss, T. Fridgen, A. Highsted, G. Jackson, G. Kenny, R. Newhook, T. Mackenzie

**FSC 2784**

**Regrets:**

E. Edinger, S. MacLachlan, D. McIlroy, M. Miskell, H. Usefi, Y. Wiersma

- FSC 2785 Adoption of Minutes**  
**Moved:** Minutes of the meeting of August 19,2020, meeting be adopted (Sullivan/Dufour).  
**Carried.**
- FSC 2786 Business Arising:** None
- FSC 2787 Correspondence:** None
- FSC 2788 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 2789 Introduction of A. Highsted, International Program**  
Alison Highsted will ensure that international students in the Faculty of Science are aware of supports and development opportunities that are available to them. She will also work with faculty, staff and students to develop or customize initiatives that will advance service delivery and increase international student success within the faculty.
- FSC 2790 Discussion about Winter Semester 2021**  
The Provost has requested input from the Faculties regarding course delivery in the Winter 2021 semester. There will be a special meeting of Senate to discuss this issue with Deans' Council. During the discussion, concerns were expressed around bringing international students and rural Newfoundland and Labrador students back to St. John's and to campus; what happens during flu season when a couple of symptoms of a head cold means isolating until symptom-free; effect of a piece-meal return to campus; how will missing a full year of labs affect degrees; the lack of supports for international students; and the increased workload for faculty and staff.
- FSC 2791 Report of the Dean**  
Presented by Travis Fridgen, Acting Dean
- 1. EDI in Research Grant Applications**  
NSERC Session facilitated by SIRI and NSERC DG Evaluation Group members Kris Poduska and Chris Rowley, Thursday 10 am - 12 pm (Sept 17). Contact [siri@mun.ca](mailto:siri@mun.ca) for a WebEx link. The session will provide an overview of how EDI may appear in grant applications.
  - 2. Cluster Hire Search Targeted for Indigenous Scholars**

Five new full-time, tenure-track ASMs will be hired at the level of Assistant or Associate Professor. These positions are targeted hires for candidates who identify as Indigenous from around the world, but the preference is for First Nation, Metis, and Inuit candidates from Canada, and particularly from Newfoundland and Labrador. The competition is for any area of scholarship and qualifications must be appropriate to the discipline or area of scholarly activity. If you know of anyone who identifies as Indigenous and is qualified please let them know and encourage them to apply.

3. **National Dialogues and Action for Inclusive Higher Education and Communities**

Memorial, UofT, and other Canadian Universities have partnered to bring the first National Dialogue on anti-black racism and black inclusion in Canadian higher education. This workshop will take place Thursday and Friday, October 1 and 2, from 12-4 pm (<https://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/nationaldialogues/>).

4. **Science Building/Math and Stats**

There have been questions about the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. I can report that no decisions have been made pertaining to relocation of Math and Stats. One of the proposals that seems to be surfacing is the demolition of all but one side of Science building, which goes from the pedway from Chemistry-Physics to and including the Science Lecture Hall. That proposal is to tear that part of the building down to the steel and one concrete floor, then rebuild it. Geography is slated to move to Biotechnology, some of the HSS departments and Psychology may go into Chemistry-Physics and the remaining tenants of Science would go to the first two floors of the newly built Science building, with the top two floors being shell space, which could be a future home for Math and Stats. These are just proposals and no decisions have been made. One other thing that came to light is that the Science lecture theatre, SN-2109, would be closed for a period of time making it imperative that the Reid Theatre be re-opened. We were successful in convincing the President that permanent access to the Reid Theatre was in the best interest of the University, and that is being explored.

**FSC 2792 Question Period**

There was discussion around new space for the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. This situation has been brought to the attention of the President. There are solutions being considered as mentioned in the Dean's report.

Concerns were expressed about asbestos remaining in the Henrietta Harvey building, and the incidents of ceiling tiles falling in while work was being completed on the roof. The Head was assured that there was no asbestos found during any of these incidents, and he will provide that correspondence to those who want to see it.

There should be follow-up with the organisers of the on-campus flu shot clinics to ensure this initiative is undertaken again this year and with more availability.

A retiree has been denied access to MS-365. This should be sorted so that it doesn't happen again.

The President's Office has advertised for five Indigenous scholars. These positions are not assigned to any particular Faculty or Department.

**FSC 2793**

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.