



Faculty of Science

Office of the Dean
St. John's, NL, Canada A1B 3X7
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MEETING OF THE FACULTY COUNCIL OF THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE

A regular meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science will be held on Wednesday, April 21, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. by Webex.

AGENDA

- 1. Regrets**
- 2. Adoption of the Minutes of January 20 and March 17, 2021**
- 3. Business Arising from the Minutes**
- 4. Correspondence: None**
- 5. Reports of Standing Committees:**
 - A. Undergraduate Studies Committee:**
 - a. Recommended update to Dean's List eligibility criteria:**
"Bullet #2: Completed at least 9 courses (27 credit hours) over two of the previous three semesters, received a numeric grade in each of these courses except where no option for a numeric grade was available, and attained an average grade of at least 80% and a GPA of at least 3.50 in these courses;"
 - B. Graduate Studies Committee:**
 - C. Library Committee:**
- 6. Reports of Delegates from Other Councils**
- 7. Release of Draft Strategic Plan for feedback**
<https://www.mun.ca/strategicplanning/DraftStratPlanApril6.pdf>
- 8. Dean of Science Award for Distinguished Emerging Scholar**
- 9. Report of the Dean**
- 10. Question Period**
- 11. Adjournment**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Travis Fridgen". The signature is stylized and written over a light grey rectangular background.

Travis Fridgen, Ph.D.
Acting Dean of Science



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**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
FACULTY COUNCIL OF SCIENCE
Minutes of Meeting of January 20, 2021**

A meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science was held on Wednesday, January 20, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. using Webex.

FSC 2812 Present

Biochemistry

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

Biology

J. Burke, T. Chapman, S. Dawe, S. Dufour, K. Tahlan

Chemistry

C. Bottaro, M. Katz, F. Kerton, C. Kozak, S. Pansare, B. Power

Computer Science

Y. Chen

Earth Sciences

P. Belley, G. Dunning, G. Layne, A. Malcolm, M. Miskell, P. Morrill, S. Strowbridge, K. Welford

Mathematics & Statistics

I. Booth, D. Harvey, R. Haynes, JC Loredó-Osti, S. Mantyka, E. Martínez-Pedroza, D. Pike, T. Sheel, T. Stuckless, S. Sullivan, A. Variyath

Ocean Sciences

G. Fletcher, P. Gagnon, D. Nichols, C. Parrish

Physics & Physical Oceanography

C. Deacon, E. Demirov, M. Evstigneev, E. Hayden, M. Morrow, J. Pittman, K. Poduska

Psychology

M. Courage, D. Hallett, M. Simms, C. Thorpe

Dean of Science Office

J. Blundell, S. Bungay, K. Foss, T. Fridgen, A. Highsted, G. Jackson, G. Kenny, T. Mackenzie, V. MacNab, R. Newhook

Engineering and Applied Science:

X. Duan

Guests:

F. Villaume

FSC 2813

Regrets:

D. McIlroy

FSC 2814

Adoption of Minutes

Moved: Minutes of the meeting of December 2, 2020, meeting be adopted (S. Sullivan/M. Berry), with correction noted of an extra ‘c’ in Computer Science in Item A(b) **Carried.**

FSC 2815

Business Arising: None

FSC 2816

Correspondence: None

FSC 2817

Presentation by Florian Villaumé, Memorial Centre for Entrepreneurship re 2021 Mel Woodward Cup:

Mr. Villaumé presented to Faculty Council to ask faculty members to encourage their students to apply for the 2021 Mel Woodward Cup, which has a deadline of March 1, 2021. The amount of the award is \$25,000. He will provide the slides of the presentation to the Heads for distribution.

FSC 2818

Reports of Standing Committees:

A. Undergraduate Studies Committee: No business.

B. Graduate Studies Committee:

a. Department of Earth Sciences, Request for Approval of a Graduate Course, EASC 6110, Machine Learning and Data Analysis in the Geosciences (G. Layne/R. Haynes), **Carried**

b. Department of Psychology, Special Topics course, PSYC 6121, Special Topics in Health Psychology II, approved by the committee and presented for information only.

C. Library Committee: No business.

FSC 2819

Reports of Delegates from Other Councils: None

FSC 2820

Discussion on equity, diversity and inclusion

Dr. T. Fridgen, Acting Dean, is a member of the Committee on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. The purpose of this discussion is to talk about the resources that might be needed in order to do the work on EDI. The suggestion was made that in order to work on EDI at MUN there needs to be an acknowledgement that the expectation on academics of

working 60 hour weeks has to change, and by addressing this problem, we may be able to work more productively on EDI. Memorial has offered a number of webinars and seminars on the subject of EDI, and maybe it should be mandatory that employees take some similar programs. Online courses or seminars would make it easier for people to attend a seminar. It might be a good idea to look at numbers with regard to how many service committees, for instance, that new hires are asked to serve on, based on gender and/or minority standing. Anecdotally it appears that female faculty are asked to take on larger classes than males, which leaves males with more time to focus on research. Maybe generating some metrics would help us objectively look at our policies and practices. Targetted hires to increase diversity will help with change. Planning in advance for these would move this along. This is a group effort and we need to identify actions, like getting people to interact with colleagues in their own departments.

The Acting Dean would like to keep this discussion going, and one of the things he hopes to do is establish an EDI committee in the Faculty of Science, and this committee would include people from all different backgrounds. What roles would this committee play? Would it be helpful?

FSC 2821

Report of the Dean

Presented by Travis Fridgen, Acting Dean

1. Student group study spaces

We have identified and booked classrooms in Science and Chemistry/Physics to allow student group study. Our EHS plan has been approved. Students will book these spaces online through LibCal. EHS supplies will be monitored by custodial services and CEP will have access to the booking information as well.

2. Comprehensive Exams

We are approved to conduct comprehensive exams on campus. Those present at the comprehensive need to agree to meet face-to-face, and EHS must be notified of when and where the comprehensive will take place and who will be present.

3. Student Town Halls

The Faculty will host two undergraduate student town hall sessions on February 9th and 12th. One of these is for first year students and the other for all undergraduate students. We anticipate higher-level questions like the effects of not having labs this year, PAS/FAL grades etc. We will not be responding to course specific questions or questions that are specific to a particular program such as prerequisite substitution etc., which are important questions but should be addressed to specific departments.

4. New ASM-CE

Shortly, the Dean of Science office will put out a call for an ASM-CE. This will help expand existing co-op programs and will allow for the potential for new programs in the Faculty of Science. Departments hoping to develop or expand co-op programs should look at how to have work terms in the Fall and/or Winter semesters.

5. Indigenous Cluster Hire

There were 28 applicants for 5 positions. A committee led by Carolyn Anderson is checking on indigenous status and the Faculties and Departments will be notified.

6. **Spring/Summer/Intersession**

At the February regular senate meeting, senate will discuss the status of the spring/summer/intersession semesters. Departments are planning now for these semesters and if an instructor/department feels that face-to-face instruction is needed, they should plan for that. If we are in primarily remote situation this summer, the DoS office and the Provost will support any requests for face-to-face instruction as long as safety concerns are met.

FSC 2822 Question Period

Clarification on HR process regarding staff continuing to work from home. Approvals by HR for staff requesting an exemption to the return to campus directive are based on Doctors' notes. HR will be making those decisions.

Clarification on opening the buildings. Some buildings that should be unlocked every day are still locked. T. Fridgen will communicate with CEP about this issue again, requesting that buildings housing science departments be unlocked every day.

FSC 2823 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:02 p.m.



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**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
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Minutes of Meeting of March 17, 2021**

A meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science was held on Wednesday, March 17, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. using Webex.

FSC 2824

Present

Biochemistry

M. Berry, R. Bertolo, V. Booth, J. Brunton, D. Hunt, M. Mulligan,

Biology

J. Burke, T. Chapman, S. Dufour, E. Edinger

Chemistry

C. Bottaro, H. Grover, M. Katz, S. Pansare, B. Power,

Computer Science

Y. Chen, C. Hyde

Earth Sciences

P. Belley, G. Dunning, G. Layne, S. Strowbridge,

Mathematics & Statistics

I. Booth, R. Haynes, J.C. Loredó-Osti, S. Mantyka, D. Pike, T. Sheel, T. Stuckless, S. Sullivan, H. Usefi,

Ocean Sciences

A. Mercier, C. Parrish

Physics & Physical Oceanography

C. Deacon, E. Demirov, M. Evstigneev, E. Hayden, M. Morrow, J. Pittman, K. Poduska

Psychology

D. Hallett, A. Swift-Gallant, C. Thorpe, C. Walsh

Dean of Science Office

D. Bennett, J. Blundell, S. Bungay, K. Foss, T. Fridgen, G. Jackson, G. Kenny, T. Mackenzie, R. Newhook,

Engineering and Applied Science:

X. Duan

FSC 2825

Regrets:

K. Hadden, F. Kerton, D. McIlroy, J. Rash, N. Ryan

FSC 2826

Adoption of Minutes

Moved: Minutes of the meeting of January 20, 2021, will be voted on in April.

FSC 2827

Business Arising: None

FSC 2828

Correspondence: None

FSC 2829

Reports of Standing Committees:

A. Undergraduate Studies Committee:

Presented by Shannon Sullivan, Chair, Undergraduate Studies Committee

a. Department of Biology, proposal to amend BIOL 4710 and cross-list with OCSC 4500 (changed number from that initially proposed by the department) (Sullivan/Mercier) **Carried.**

b. Department of Ocean Sciences, proposal to amend pre-requisites for OCSC, 3002, 3600 and 4200 (Sullivan/Mercier) **Carried.**

B. Graduate Studies Committee: No business.

C. Library Committee: No business.

FSC 2830

Reports of Delegates from Other Councils: None

FSC 2831

Report of the Dean

Presented by Travis Fridgen, Acting Dean

1. Congratulations

Congratulations to Dr. Chris Kozak in the Department of Chemistry for leading the successful CFI proposal for \$6,773,058 for the Atlantic Canada Environmental and Sustainable Chemistry Centre (ACESCentre), which will be located in the Core Science Facility.

Dr. Uta Passow of the Department of Ocean Sciences was also successful in \$3.5 M project in collaboration with Dalhousie to install an array of biogeochemical-Argo floats.

James LeBlanc of the Department of Physics and Physical Oceanography was also successful in a collaboration led by McMaster for \$14.2M to Build a Future for Canadian Neutron Scattering.

Successful JELF applications were also announced earlier for:

- Dr. Cheema in Biochemistry, a collaboration for a Supercritical extraction system to develop innovative bioproducts from fisher and forestry biomass residues;
- Dr. Malcolm from Earth Sciences, a collaboration for Advanced Measurement and Characterization for Microstructures and Microsystems Research;
- Dr. Katz of Chemistry, Breaking Through to a Cleaner Tomorrow;

- Drs. Hargan and Lang of Biology, Application of molecular biomarkers and genomics to track environmental change.

Drs. Jamieson and Bihlo of Earth Sciences and Mathematics and Statistics, respectively, have been renewed for a second term as CRC Chairs.

2. **EDI Discussion – special meeting**

I have asked Dr. Jennifer Simpson, currently the Dean of HSS, to chair our next discussion on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion which is slated for a special meeting of Faculty Council on Monday, May 3 from 10-12 pm.

3. **New Provost announcement**

The Board of Regents has approved the appointment of Dr. Florentine Strzelczyk as Provost and Vice-President (Academic) and Pro Vice-Chancellor, effective August 16, 2021.

FSC 2832

Question Period

The University is currently operating under Level Yellow, or low, on MUN's COVID-19 Impact Scale. For access to campus, faculty and staff will have to request approval from their supervisor and fill out the Memorial University Activity Form for campus access. The Dean's Office will clarify the process and communicate this information via email to the departments.

There are currently no updates on the Pas/Fal option for the Winter 2021 semester. The President was clear at student town hall that this option would not be instituted as it was in the Winter 2020 semester. The Dean's Office is waiting on clarification from the Registrar's Office.

The Acting Dean clarified that the Faculty of Science would not require staff to return to campus until after the current term is finished for instructors, at least.

Memorial has seen an increase of 18% in the numbers of applications for admission. It is unclear how Faculties will deal with the increase in class sizes.

There were concerns expressed about the urgency of the University communicating a decision for students to return to campus in Fall 2021. It is critical that labs be offered in-person, as much as is possible. The hope is that in-person classes and field courses will be held, also.

FSC 2833

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Dean of Science Distinguished Emerging Scholar Award:

The Dean of Science Award for Distinguished Emerging Scholar recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to both teaching and research in the Faculty of Science up to the point at which they receive tenure.

Nomination Process

Nominations will be made by nominee's Head. Nominees must submit a signed letter stating that they agree to the use of the tenure dossier and the external letters of appraisal for the purpose of adjudicating this award. Normally, only one nomination per department will be accepted, though a second nomination may be made, with proper justification.

Note that, for the purpose of this award, the tenure dossier is comprised only of the material submitted by the candidate (nominee) and not materials added to the tenure file by the Head, nor the letters from the P&T committee, Head, Dean, VP(Academic) or President.

Eligibility

The Dean's Award for Distinguished Emerging Scholar may be made to any current Regular Faculty Member within the Faculty of Science in the academic year in which they are applying for tenure.

The selection committee shall be the Department Heads, Associate Deans, and Dean.

Normally a maximum of one award will be made annually. The committee can recommend that no award be made in a given year if, in its opinion, none of the files examined present a sufficiently compelling case. Likewise, if there is more than one exceptional candidate, more than one award may be made.

Questions of interpretation or application of award eligibility criteria and procedures shall be referred to the Dean of Science, whose decision will be final.

The Award

Recipients of the Dean of Science Award for Distinguished Emerging Scholar will be honoured with the following:

1. \$1,000 to be used by the recipient in support of teaching and research activities.
2. Recognition and citation from the Dean of Science.

Criteria

The activities around the Distinguished Emerging Scholar's research and teaching (including classroom teaching as well as graduate and undergraduate student supervision) will be of high quality as expected for such an award. Nominees will be adjudicated based upon the quality, excellence, and impact of their research program as well as the quality and excellence of their teaching as documented in their tenure package.