



**Faculty of Science**

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**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
FACULTY COUNCIL OF SCIENCE  
Minutes of Meeting of April 21, 2021**

A meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science was held on Wednesday, April 21, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. using Webex.

**FSC 2834**

**Present**

**Biochemistry**

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

**Biology**

J. Burke, T. Chapman, A. Darby-King

**Chemistry**

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

**Computer Science**

Y. Chen, C. Hyde

**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, J.C. Loredano-Osti, S. Mantyka, D. Pike, T. Sheel, S. Sullivan

**Ocean Sciences**

D. Nichols, C. Parrish

**Physics & Physical Oceanography**

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

**Psychology**

P.-P. Bitton, M. Courage, C. Fitzpatrick, T. Reardon, 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, V. MacNab, R. Newhook, K. White

**Engineering and Applied Science:**

X. Duan

- FSC 2835 Regrets:**  
S. Dufour, D. McIlroy, K. Poduska, N. Ryan, Y. Wiersma
- FSC 2836 Adoption of Minutes**  
**Moved:** Minutes of the meeting of January 20, 2021 and March 17, 2021, be adopted. (Sullivan/Berry) **Carried.**
- FSC 2837 Business Arising:** None
- FSC 2838 Correspondence:** None
- FSC 2839 Reports of Standing Committees:**
- A. Undergraduate Studies Committee:**  
Presented by Shannon Sullivan, Chair, 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;” (Sullivan/Haynes) **Carried.**
  - B. Graduate Studies Committee:** No business.
  - C. Library Committee:** No business.
- FSC 2840 Reports of Delegates from Other Councils:** None
- FSC 2841 Release of the Draft Strategic Plan for feedback**  
A draft of Memorial University’s strategic plan, *a beating heart for Newfoundland and Labrador*, was released on April 6, 2021. Faculty, staff, alumni and students can submit comments on this document directly to [strategicplanning@mun.ca](mailto:strategicplanning@mun.ca) or share these comments with your Senate representative. The Acting Dean has been collecting comments sent to him, and he will relay these to the co-chairs. Work will begin shortly on the Faculty strategic plan and departments will begin the work on their own.
- FSC 2842 Dean of Science Award for Distinguished Emerging Scholar**

Information on this new award was circulated to faculty. Those in attendance agreed it is a great way to acknowledge the work of new faculty members. The inaugural award will take place this year. (Berry/Sheel) **Carried.**

### **FSC 2843 Report of the Dean**

Presented by Travis Fridgen, Acting Dean

1. I would like to wish all the administrative professionals in the Dean of Science office, and those in each of the departments, a happy administrative professionals day and a heartfelt thank you for keeping the departments and the faculty running smoothly. Thank you all!
2. On May 4, at 12 noon, we will hold a special meeting of Faculty Council where Dr. Jennifer Simpson, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, will lead a discussion on Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.
3. The next 'On the Menu' is scheduled for May 12<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm. The title is: *Tips for Preparing an Application to the Memorial University Seed and Multidisciplinary Funds* and will be presented by Dr. Jacqueline Blundell.
4. Dr. Nicole Babichuk has left her position as grants facilitation officer in the Faculty of Science. While Nicole is continuing to do some work for us on a very part time basis, we will be welcoming Dr. Jennifer Lynn Major who will be joining Dr. Frizzell in the GFO office in the coming month.
5. I would like to thank Dr. Yuanzhu Chen for his 16+ years of service to Memorial and two years service as Head of Computer Science. Dr. Chen is moving to Queen's University and will step down as Head on April 30.
6. I would also like to thank Dr. Sharene Bungay who has served as Associate Dean of Science for the last year and who's term will end on April 30<sup>th</sup> so that she can lead the Department of Computer Science as Interim Head beginning on May 1.

### **FSC 2844 Question Period**

There was much discussion around the return to campus for the Fall 2021 semester. The Acting Dean requested that heads share with all faculty the guidelines on the plan to return to campus. Labs will be taught in person, but large classes of more than 100 will not be held on campus. Classrooms will be at 50% capacity so the density calculator will not be used for those spaces. The hope is to have 100 students in the large classrooms. Remote teaching will still happen for many courses, but low enrollment courses can be offered in-person. This is still early days in the planning, though, so there may be more changes coming.

The Acting Dean will approach the Chief Risk Officer concerning ventilation in the university buildings.

### **FSC 2845 Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:48 p.m.