



Faculty 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 Villaum , Memorial Centre for Entrepreneurship re 2021 Mel Woodward Cup:

Mr. Villaum  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.