



**Faculty of Science**

Office of the Dean  
St. John's, NL Canada A1B 3X7  
Tel: 709 864 8154 Fax: 709 864 3316  
deansci@mun.ca [www.mun.ca/science](http://www.mun.ca/science)

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
FACULTY COUNCIL OF SCIENCE  
Minutes of Meeting of January 19, 2022**

A meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science was held on Wednesday, January 19, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. using Webex.

**FSC 2906**

**Present**

**Biochemistry**

M. Berry, R. Bertolo, J. Brunton, S. Harding, D. Hunt

**Biology**

A. Chaulk, K. Tahlan, Y. Wiersma

**Chemistry**

C. Bottaro, H. Grover, M. Katz, S. Pansare, B. Power, D. Stirling, T.J. Stockmann, H. Therien-Aubin

**Computer Science**

S. Bungay, M. Emshey, M. Hamilton, C. Hyde, O. Meruvia-Pastor, K. Popuri

**Earth Sciences**

J. Bishop, G. Dunning, A. Langille, G. Layne, A. Malcolm, M. Miskell, S. Piercey

**Economics**

K. Chu

**Mathematics & Statistics**

I. Booth, D. Dyer, D. Harvey, J.C. Loredano-Osti, S. MacLachlan, S. Mantyka, D. Pike, T. Sheel, S. Sullivan, H. Usefi, A. Variyath, Y. Yilmaz-Cigsar

**Ocean Sciences**

I. Fleming, D. Nichols, C. Parrish

**Physics & Physical Oceanography**

L. Beaulieu, D. Coombs, E. Hayden, M. Morrow, J. Munroe, L. Zedel

**Psychology**

A. Anand, R. Bennett, C. Fitzpatrick, C. Quinn-Nilas, C. Thorpe, C. Walsh, D. Wilson

**Dean of Science Office**

J. Blundell, S. Dufour, T. Edmunds, K. Foss, T. Fridgen, L. Frizzell, G. Jackson, J. Kavanagh, G. Kenny, P. MacCallum, T. Mackenzie, V. MacNab, J. Major, R. Newhook, J. Whelan

**Student Representatives:**

C. Clowe-Coish, T. Durgut, M. Geng, E. Ignatz, W. Kinden, M. Longjohn, A. Meyer, T. Oguntuyaki, S. Sullivan

**Guest:**

Ms. Violet Ford, Associate Vice-President (Indigenous Research)

**FSC 2907**

**Regrets:**

D. Boyce, D. McIlroy, K. Poduska, N. Ryan, D. Smith, Y. Tzenov, J. Whelan

**FSC 2908**

**Adoption of Minutes**

**Moved:** Minutes of the meeting of December 1, 2021, be adopted. (Berry/Sullivan)

**Carried.** Notes for correction: G. Layne and D. Stirling were present at the December 1, 2021 meeting; Item FSC 2901, A.j.: The title of the program should be changed to Data-centric Computing.

**FSC 2909**

**Ms. Violet Ford, Associate Vice-President (Indigenous Research):**

Ms. Ford was clear that the purpose of her attending the Faculty of Science Faculty Council meeting was to provide an update on what has been happening since she took up her position in September 2021.

Ms. Ford's role is to ensure that indigenous communities are engaged at the very beginning of a research project, even before the proposal has taken form. Engagement is critical before the conceptual framework of the proposal to ensure a relationship is created with the communities.

Ms. Ford has been meeting with faculties/units and indigenous groups and communities in Labrador and Corner Brook. She has given many presentations and developed good beginning relationships and addressed many concerns expressed to her.

Ms. Ford is looking at the Indigenization research policy in detail. After speaking with many faculty and researchers, she has noticed there are many challenges with relation to this policy. Because the policy is now up for review – it has been 18 months since it was approved in July of 2020 – and based on what she has been hearing, she is convinced it is time now to look closely and review the policy in more detail. A working group should be struck within the next few weeks to review the policy.

If anyone wants to get in touch with Ms. Ford with questions about the policy or procedures or any concerns you may have, you can send those queries to her through the Indigenous research portal. She indicated her door is open if anyone wishes to meet, as well.

**FSC 2910**

**Business Arising:** None

**FSC 2911**

**Correspondence:** None

- FSC 2912 Reports of Standing Committees:**
- A. Undergraduate Studies Committee:** No business.
  - B. Graduate Studies Committee:**  
Presented by Graham Layne, Chair, Graduate Studies Committee:  
Department of Computer Science, Special Topics course, COMP 6982, Special Topics in Computer Vision, approved by the committee and presented to Faculty Council for information only.
  - C. Library Committee:** No business.

**FSC 2913 Reports of Delegates from Other Councils:** None

**FSC 2914 Report of the Dean**

Presented by Dr. Travis Fridgen, Acting Dean

**1. New Graduate Programs**

The two new course-based masters administered through Faculty of Science and one through Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science will be up and running in Fall 2022. These programs will have their first intakes in September 2022. Thank you and great work to all those who worked on preparing these program proposals, especially those from Computer Science and Mathematics and Statistic, and feel free to promote them when you can.

**2. Winter 2022 semester update**

There will be a Winter semester update coming very shortly, and I anticipate the resumption of classes on January 31. I anticipate it will look like the Fall 2021 semester. The Dean of Science Office will be working with department heads and administrators to look at staffing levels.

**3. Scientific Endeavours in Academia**

Jacqueline Blundell is organising a Faculty of Science in person interdisciplinary conference for April 8-10 called Scientific Endeavours in Academia (SEA).

Dr. Blundell provided information on the conference:

We will need lots of volunteers and people for judging. We will have oral and poster presentations, and a couple of keynotes we hope can attend. Please encourage your students to attend. If you have questions or would like to help out, please get in touch.

**FSC 2915 Question Period**

It is expected that classes will be on campus for those courses with fewer than 100 students, and those courses will be delivered in person. There's the possibility that those courses with more than 100 students can go ahead in person if the class can be broken into two classes, but we're trying to figure that out so that a hybrid delivery of sorts can be used. If examinations are to be held in person for any course with over 100 students, the class can be divided up in order to accomplish this. There will be a date by which the students must be notified, if this a route instructors wish to take with their examinations.

The Acting Dean will take the concerns around lack of a mandate for 3-ply non-surgical masks to the CRO.

Instructors can hold office hours in person, as they are important. Some students may be fine doing them remotely as well.

Voting to adopt Faculty Council minutes will remain as it has been since the Faculty Council meetings have been held remotely. For any votes that are considered to be contentious, we can do polling to record individual votes.

**FSC 2916**

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.