



Faculty of Science

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**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
FACULTY COUNCIL OF SCIENCE
Minutes of Meeting of May 17, 2023**

A meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science was held on Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. using a hybrid model of Webex and in-person (C-2045).

FSC 3011 Present

Biochemistry

M. Berry, V. Booth, J. Brunton, S. Christian, S. Harding, A. Todd

Biology

D. Bignell, S. Carr, A. Chaulk, A. Hurford, Y. Wiersma

Chemistry

C. Bottaro, L. Cahill, M. Katz, S. Pansare, S. Smith, J. Stockmann, H. Therien-Aubin

Computer Science

L. Careen, N. Esfahani, A. Fiech, M. Hatcher, C. Hyde, O. Meruvia-Pastor, V. Prado de Fonseca

Earth Sciences

A. Leitch, A. Malcolm, K. Welford

Mathematics & Statistics

I. Booth, A. Hatefi, R. Haynes, J.C. Loredano-Osti, C. Ou, T. Sheel, S. Sullivan, A. Variyath

Ocean Sciences

I. Fleming, P. Gagnon, E. Ignatz, M. Rise

Physics & Physical Oceanography

E. Hayden, J. LeBlanc, H. Neilson, I. Saika-Voivod, L. Zedel

Psychology

S. Blandford, K. Hourihan, A. Swift-Gallant, C. Thorpe, S. Walling, C. Walsh

Dean of Science Office

J. Blundell, S. Garasym, C. Hussey, S. Dufour, K. Foss, T. Fridgen, G. Jackson, J. Kavanagh, R. Newhook, P. MacCallum

Student Representatives

E. Dormody, C. Quinn-Nilas, J. Lamarre

Regrets

G. Dunning, K. Poduska

FSC 3012 Adoption of Minutes

Moved: Minutes of the meeting of March 15, 2023, be adopted. (Sullivan/Berry) **Carried.**
Notes for correction: Item # FSC 3009:Shannon Sullivan “ensures” should change to “assures”.

FSC 3013 Business Arising:

Shannon Sullivan informed Faculty Council that the 2023-2024 University Calendar changes have been approved and will be published in this year’s calendar; this year’s Calendar will be in circulation approximately a month later than normal and will not be sent to the departments for proofing, the Registrar’s Office will be proofing before circulation.

FSC 3014 Correspondence: No Report

FSC 3015 Reports of Standing Committees:

A. Undergraduate Studies Committee:

Presented by Shannon Sullivan, Chair, Undergraduate Studies Committee

- a. Department of Mathematics and Statistics - Calendar Changes, New Course – M1006, (Sullivan/ Blundell) **Carried.**

B. Graduate Studies Committee:

Presented by Alison Leitch, Chair, Graduate Studies Committee

- a. Scientific Computing Program, proposal for changes to the MSc in Scientific computing, (Leitch/Stockmann) **Carried.** The wording “providing research funding” be removed from requirements section before submission to SGS.
- b. Department of Computer Science, Request for Approval of a Graduate Course, COMP 6984, Future Networks and Applications of Machine Learning, Paper 5.B.b. (Leitch/Fiech) **Carried.**
- c. Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Special Topics Graduate Course, M6114, Mathematics of Numerical Relativity, approved by the committee and presented to Faculty Council for information only.
- d. Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Special Topics Graduate Course, M6115, Mathematical Epidemiology, approved by the committee and presented to Faculty Council for information only.

C. Library Committee: No business.

FSC 3016 Presentation on the GSO funding (outbound mobility funding)

Presented by Chris Hibbs, Internationalization Office

Chris Hibbs presented a presentation on Global Skills Opportunity (GSO) funding to help support Canadian students who are interested in studying abroad.

Contact information:

General: goabroad@mun.ca

Outbound Advisor: Dayna Vey, dayna.vey@mun.ca

Partnerships: Chris Hibbs, chibbs@mun.ca

Study Abroad: www.mun.ca/goabroad

<https://www.mun.ca/goabroad/go-global-outbound/global-skills-opportunity-fund/>

COIL stands for Collaborative Online International Learning. COIL provides a pathway for students and faculty to interact with two classrooms at the same time online. This program is set up to help support Canadian students based on needs: low income students, indigenous students, students with accessibility needs.

Power Point Presentation is attached.

FSC 3017 Report of the Dean:

COI Memo. The memo to Heads about the University COI policy is meant to remind heads of the policy and ensure that they are following it when it comes to student supervisory and examination committees. This is not a FoS policy, it is not new policy, and it is not a policy that only the FoS are required to follow. Nor is it even policy that only Memorial University follows as there are many examples of very similar University policies and language from UBC, UCalgary, McGill, and UVic as examples. I do apologize as the back-and-forth re-writing of the original document which was sent to departments did look like we were suggesting new policy. We are not suggesting new policy. In general, the FoS has not been consistently following the policy with respect to family members being on student committees and in some case comprehensive exams for graduate students and undergraduate theses. It is not something punitive, it protects faculty as much as it does students. Therefore, I have written a memo to heads to remind them of the policy and that it is their job to ensure that it is adhered to. This memo was attached to today's FoS agenda.

NSERC Results. I was at the Canadian Council of Deans of Science meeting this past weekend and we received the results of the previous NSERC competition. Our success rates for established researchers was 60% and for ECRs it was 65%. This is in line with the national average for established researchers and better than the national average for ECEs. NSERC made the decision to increase the average grant size by some \$10K but in doing so, the success rate was decreased substantially. For example, bin J-SSS was not funded for established researchers. There is another statistic that I want to share and that is that 90% of ECRs get funded, not the first time, but during the time that they qualify as ECRs. I hope that provides some sense of reassurance anyone who was not funded this year.

Bouchard Report. Dr. Frederik Bouchard attended the CCDS meeting to present the core findings of the advisory panel report on the federal research support system, and I have sent this report to departments. The key recommendations were: 1) a 10% increase to the federal research budget per year just to get back to what has been lost with inflation and not increasing the budget over the past years, 2) that NSERC/SSERC support investigator

driven research rather than mission-driven research, 3) the creation of a Canadian Knowledge and Science Foundation, mostly to piggy-back on the success of the National Science Foundation. He also suggested that it would be enormously beneficial if we were to ask non-academic friends to write their MPs and/or government Ministers such as Chrystia Freeland, Randy Boissonnault (who helps Minister Freeland write the budget), Dominic LeBlanc from Atlantic Canada, and Francois-Philippe Champagne etc. The message could say something to the effect that they have heard about the Bouchard Report and the government should implement the full report to support research and innovation in Canada. Dr. Bouchard feels non-academics writing their MPs and Ministers will provide more impact on government policy than academics writing.

Teaching Retreat. We are planning a faculty/staff teaching retreat toward the end of summer close to the beginning of classes. We will send out a request for suggestions of topics you would like to see covered and perhaps topics you might like to present—things that will be on everyone’s minds come Fall like getting used to artificial intelligence that our students, and everyone now, has access to.

Budget. The Board of Governors will be meeting in the next few days to look at the University’s budget proposal. If passed by the board, there will be a short amount of time before we know the impact to the Faculty of Science. I am planning to hold a special meeting of Faculty Council to present the budget situation to the faculty in mid-June.

FSC 3018 Question Period:

Statements from three Chemistry Faculty members that could not attend the Faculty Council meeting were presented by Dr. Pansare about concerns with Memorial’s COI and how it affects supervision of students. Dr. Fridgen explained that this is not a Faculty of Science Policy, it does not discriminate and we cannot pause it because it is not our policy.

Dr. Blundell will be attending a meeting with the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies to discuss MUN policy of having a supervisory committee different than an examining committee to discuss the possibility of merging the two committees.

Dr. Blundell asked if the NSERC will be funding only SSVS for non-ECRs next year.

Dr. Blundell suggested that anyone applying for NSERC next year makes sure to review the table for very strong, and mirror the language for very strong rather than strong, if appropriate.

FSC 3019 Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.