



## Faculty of Science

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# FACULTY OF SCIENCE FACULTY COUNCIL OF SCIENCE Minutes of Meeting of September 20, 2023

A meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science was held on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. using a hybrid model of WebEx and in-person (C-2045).

## FSC 3020 Present

### Biochemistry

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

### Biology

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

### Chemistry

C. Bottaro, M. Katz, E. Merschrod, S. Pansare, S. Smith, J. Stockmann, H. Therien-Aubin

### Computer Science

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

### Earth Sciences

A. Leitch, A. Malcolm, K. Welford

### Mathematics & Statistics

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

### Ocean Sciences

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

### Physics & Physical Oceanography

V. Borges, 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, G. Jackson, J. Kavanagh, R. Newhook, P. MacCallum, R. Temple

### **Student Representatives**

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

### **Regrets**

T. Fridgen

**FSC 3021**

Adoption of Agenda

**Moved:** (Loredo-Osti /Bungay) **Carried.**

**FSC 3022**

**Adoption of Minutes**

**Moved:** Minutes of the meeting of September 20, 2023, be adopted. (Sullivan/Katz)  
**Carried.**

**FSC 3023**

**Business Arising:**

Shannon Sullivan informed Faculty Council that the 2023-2024 University Calendar is now launched and advised departments to review the individual sections for any issues.

Shannon Sullivan noted the calendar changes for the 2024-2025 calendar should be presented to Faculty Council by the December meeting in order to make the calendar changes in the new university calendar.

**FSC 3024**

**Correspondence:** No Report

**FSC 3025**

**Reports of Standing Committees:**

**A. Undergraduate Studies Committee:**

Presented by Shannon Sullivan, Former Chair, Undergraduate Studies Committee

- a. Department of Chemistry – Special Topics Undergraduate Course, CHEM4390 - Special Topics in Physical Chemistry approved by FOSCUGS committee and presented to Faculty Council for information only.
- b. Department of Biology – Special Topics Undergraduate Course, BIOL4917 - Special Topics in Paleolimnology & Long-Term Environmental Change approved by FOSCUGS committee and presented to Faculty Council for information only.

**B. Graduate Studies Committee:**

Presented by Alison Leitch, Chair, Graduate Studies Committee

- a. Department of Biochemistry - Calendar Changes, – BIOC6590, Cellular, Molecular and Developmental Biology (Leitch/Christian) **Carried.**
- b. Department of Biochemistry - Calendar Changes, BIOC6999, Seminars in Biochemistry and Food Science (Leitch/Christian) **Carried.**
- c. Department of Chemistry, Special Topics Graduate Course, CHEM6382, Selected Topics in Physical Chemistry, approved by the Faculty Council Graduate Studies Committee and presented to Faculty Council for information only.

**C. Library Committee:** No business.

**FSC 3026 Report of the Dean:**

The faculty would like to welcome the new faculty, staff, graduate students, and undergraduate students to Memorial and the Faculty of Science. If there is any way the Dean's office can help, please contact us. This year the Dean's office and each of the departments welcomed close to 500 students in person at academic matriculation and orientation. A big thanks to Lawreen Latif, a graduate student who was hired to plan Faculty of Science orientation, as well as Chenal Batuwangala, Suzanne and Carol Sullivan who all ensured that orientation was a big success.

We welcome some new heads to their positions. Dr. Matt Rise has just begun his three-year term as Head of Biology, Dr. Robert Bertolo is the Interim Head of Biochemistry while Dr. Berry is on administrative leave, and Dr. Patrick Gagnon is the Interim Head of Ocean Sciences.

You may have seen the Gazette stories about moving the two remaining seals from the Ocean Sciences Centre. This decision has been made in the best interest of the seals, Tyler and Deane who will be transferred together to a facility where they will have the opportunity to socialize with other marine mammals. The Faculty of Science would like to express our sincere gratitude to the employees and volunteers who generously cared for and enriched the lives of all of the harp seals over the past 3 decades.

The Faculty of Science was the recipient of a generous donation by former Dean of Science Dr. Bob Lucas. This endowment provides funds to help graduate students nearing completion of their program who are in financial need.

We are planning a teaching retreat from 10 am to 3 pm on Tuesday October 10<sup>th</sup> at the Signal Hill campus. There will be talks and discussions covering topics such as team-based learning, strategies for success of students who were impacted by learning during the COVID-19 epidemic, and the impact of AI on teaching, and more. We urge people to RSVP by September 29<sup>th</sup> if they plan to attend – you'll be receiving an email very soon with that RSVP request.

Tonight at 5 pm the Faculty of Science is hosting the annual Dean's Awards Ceremony in the whale atrium of the core science facility. We welcome faculty and staff to attend to support our student, faculty, and staff awardees. We ask that you please keep floor seating open for our student, faculty and staff awardees. There is plenty of space for attendees on the second floor that should provide a great view of the event.

NSERC Discovery grants are due soon, reach out if you need help.

Faculty of Science will be proceeding with the 2023-2024 SEA conference with the date to be determined.

**FSC 3027****Question Period:**

Dr. Neilson had concerns about applying for USRAs; the amount of funding issued to the students attending conferences; and the unclear due date and last minute changes in applying to the Terra Nova Young Innovator Award, including “unbiased data”. These items raise issues around EDI within the Faculty and he would like to know the Dean’s Office procedures regarding these three concerns. Dr. Blundell indicated that the Dean of Science office will be hosting a Lunch and Learn session in December for potential applicants. While this do not answer the question regarding USRAs, the session will help with future applications. Dr. Blundell also explained the standard funding allowances that the Dean of Science offers students that are travelling to conferences, and referenced other funding sources that students can avail of, including the School of Graduate Studies and MUNSU. Dr. Blundell explained that the Terra Nova Young Innovator Award is an initiative by the VPR’s office and to email her with any concerns regarding the application process.

Dr. Merschrod asked about the cost of the teaching retreat that’s being held at the Signal Hill campus as well as the source of the funding. Dr. Dufour explained this is from an award that Dr. Fridgen received from the President’s office and will find out more information for Dr. Merschrod.

**FSC 3028****Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.