



## Faculty of Science

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# FACULTY OF SCIENCE FACULTY COUNCIL OF SCIENCE Minutes of Meeting of April 24, 2024

A meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science was held on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. using a hybrid model of WebEx and in-person (C-2045).

## FSC 3067 Present

### Biochemistry

R. Bertolo, J. Brunton

### Biology

M. Rise, Y. Wiersma

### Chemistry

S. Pansare, S. Smith, M. Katz, N. Ryan, H. Therien-Aubin

### Computer Science

S. Bungay, A. Fiech, M. Hatcher, J. Henderson, C. Hyde, O. Meruvia, L. Peña-Castillo, T. Tricco

### Earth Science

K. Welford, P. Morrill

### Mathematics & Statistics

J. Alam, I. Booth, D. Dyer, C. Evans, R. Haynes, J.C. Loredó-Osti, T. Stuckless, S. Sullivan

### Ocean Sciences

D. Inkpen, P. Gagnon, C. Parrish, M. Roche, J. Santander, J. Wroblewski

### Physics & Physical Oceanography

D. Coombs, M. Evstigneev, E. Hayden, H. Neilson, I. Saika-Voivod, L. Zedel

### Psychology

S. Blandford, D. Hallett, K. Hourihan, A. Swift-Gallant, C. Thorpe

**Dean of Science Office**

J. Blundell, J. Bowering, S. Dufour, M. Fitzpatrick, T. Fridgen, S. Garasym, C. Hussey, G. Jackson, J. Kavanagh, P. MacCallum, J. Major, R. Newhook, D. Nichols, C. Sullivan

**Student Representatives**

S. Douglas, A. Ullah

**Regrets**

A. Chaulk

**FSC 3068**

**Adoption of Minutes**

**Moved:** Minutes of the meeting of February 21, 2024, be adopted.  
(Bungay/Loredo-Osti) **Carried.**

**FSC 3069**

**Business Arising:** No Business

**FSC 3070**

**Correspondence:** No Report

**FSC 3071**

**Reports of Standing Committees:**

**A.**

**Undergraduate Studies Committee:**

Presented by Shannon Sullivan, Chair, Undergraduate Studies Committee

a) Department of Earth Sciences – Calendar Changes, amended program,  
(Sullivan/Morrill) **Carried.**

b) Department of Earth Sciences- Calendar changes, EASC 2906, New course  
proposal, (Sullivan/Morrill) **Carried.**

**B.**

**Graduate Studies Committee:**

Presented by Adrian Fiech, Chair, Graduate Studies Committee

a) Department of Computer Science - Calendar Changes (MSc), New  
regulations: Program requirements, Consistent regulation regarding program  
termination, removing the Work-term route, adding two new courses for  
approval – COMP 611W and COMP 612W, (Fiech/Bungay) **Carried.**

**C.**

**Library Committee:** No business

**FSC 3072**

**Report of Dean:**

### SEA Conference

The SEA Conference was a huge success! Many thanks to the many volunteers, judges, and presenters. There were nearly 350 registrants, and more than 150 oral and poster presentations. With support from the VPR, SGS, FoS, and our industry partners, I'm thrilled to announce that we were able to give out 45 student awards! If you have feedback as to how we can make the SEA conference even better, please email [sciencegrants@mun.ca](mailto:sciencegrants@mun.ca).

### NSERC Results

The faculty was very successful with NSERC this round. While the university had a 69% success rate, the Faculty of Science had a success rate of over 80%, including early career applicants. I want to restate a message from last year, that while on a yearly basis early career funding rates are low relative to established researchers, within the first three years the funding rates are 90% for ECEs. So, if you were not funded this year, learn from the reviews, get advice from colleagues, our GFOs, and have hope for next year!

### **Budget**

Dr. Fridgen presented a Power Point presentation to the members of Faculty Council. (Attached)

### **FSC 3073 Question Period:**

Dr. Haynes asked what Core Research IT personnel is in the Faculty of Science. The Dean clarified that Science and IT support are collaborating on a model that would be centralized research IT support staff that would service all Science departments.

Regarding funding for Health and Safety lab personnel mentioned in the budget, Dr. Haynes suggested this be a shared position with other faculties.

Is there an opportunity to increase success on grants to try to get more overhead for the Faculty of Science from the funding portion? The Dean explained that the formula for overhead is set by the university but the split we have has allowed us to make the Grants Facilitation office positions permanent and can only be used for certain things. We don't know if it is possible to negotiate the formula however the Dean pointed out that this money also runs the VPR office who has had large cuts as well.

Dr. Neilson asked what the definition of a low enrollment course is. The Dean indicated that a low enrollment course is not easy to define but roughly has fewer than 5-10 students. The Dean went on to explain that the University Deans have

been asked why these low enrolment courses are being offered. In the near future, it is possible that faculties will have to start cancelling these courses.

Dr. Alam asked if there is a way to gain revenue. The Dean explained that it would be hard for Faculty of Science to grow our way out of budget cuts. It takes much more money than the \$650 per course to teach a student. Other Universities have funded back growth from their governments, unfortunately, Memorial does not have that support.

**FSC 3074**

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 2:00pm.