



## 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 December 4, 2024

A meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science was held on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. using a hybrid model of WebEx and in-person (C-2045).

## FSC 3084 Present

### Biology

A. Chaulk, S. Dufour, D. Harvey, D. Marshall, M. Rise

### Biochemistry

V. Booth, M. Berry, R. Bertolo, J. Brunton, S. Christian

### Chemistry

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

### Computer Science

S. Bungay, A. Fiech. M. Hatcher, C. Hyde, C. Sullivan

### Mathematics & Statistics

J. Alam, I. Booth, C. Cigsar, R. Haynes, J.C. Loredó-Osti, T. Sheel, S. Sullivan, Y. Yilmaz-Cigsar

### Ocean Sciences

I. Fleming, P. Gagnon, J. Wroblewski

### Physics & Physical Oceanography

D. Coombs, S. Curnoe, E. Hayden, I. Saika-Voivod, L. Zedel

### Psychology

S. Blandford, D. Hallett, K. Hourihan, N. Penton

### Dean of Science Office

J. Blundell, J. Bowering, T. Fridgen, M. Fitzpatrick, L. Frizzell, C. Hussey, G. Jackson, J. Kavanagh, P. MacCallum, J. Major, V. MacNab, T. Mackenzie, D. Nichols, R. Newhook, N. Squires, C. Thorpe

### Representatives from other Faculties

B. Misiuk (HSS)

## **Student Representatives**

F. Dominie, E. Gnam, F. Ishrak, E. Mohammadreza, F. Probandno

## **Regrets**

T. Mackenzie

### **FSC 3085 Adoption of Minutes**

**Moved:** Minutes of the meeting of November 20, 2024, be adopted. *(Sullivan/Berry)* **Carried.**

### **FSC 3086 Business Arising:** No Business

### **FSC 3087 Correspondence:** No Report

### **FSC 3088 Reports of Standing Committees:**

#### **A. Undergraduate Students Committee:**

Presented by Shannon Sullivan, Chair, Faculty of Science, Undergraduate Studies Committee

##### a. Department of Biochemistry

- i. HUBI 2001 and 3004 calendar change corrections
- ii. HUBI 4001 Biomolec. new course proposal
- iii. HUBI 4003 Pub Health Nutr. new course proposal
- iv. HUBI 4102 calendar change proposal
- v. HUBI 4240 calendar change proposal
- vi. HUBI 4300 calendar change proposal
- vii. HUBI 4801 and 4802 new course proposal
- viii. HUBI Concentration Course Lists

*(Sullivan/Brunton)* **Carried.**

##### b. Department of Biology

- i. BIOL 3712 proposal to cross list as OSCS 3712

*(Sullivan/Rise)* **Carried.**

##### c. Department of Computer Science

- i. Concentrations, reviewed and passed at Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Faculty Council
- ii. Computer Science degree allow MATH-1006
- iii. Computer Science and Physics joint major and joint honours program, Amendment, reviewed and passed at Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Faculty Council

*(Sullivan/Bungay).* **Carried.**

##### d. Department of Earth Science

- i. EASC 3172 amend course title
- ii. EASC 3420 amend prerequisite and course description
- iii. EASC 4907 new course proposal

*(Sullivan/Brunton).* **Carried.**

- e. Department of Mathematics and Statistics
  - i. MATH 4130 amend prerequisites
  - ii. STAT 2500 course update
  - iii. STAT 3521, 3585, 4530 prerequisites changes
  - iv. ECON and MATH Major revision
  - v. MATH and PHYS Major and Honours revisions
  - vi. COMP and MATH Major and Honours proposal
  - vii. MATH 4340 and 4341 prerequisites changes (Minor changes to be made, department will submit these changes to the Dean of Science office.)

*(Sullivan/Booth)* **Carried.**

- f. Department of Physics and Physical Oceanography
  - i. PHYS 3000 change to supplementary examination regulation

*(Sullivan/Saika-Voivod)*. **Carried.**

- g. Department of Psychology
  - i. Calendar changes regulation 4.5.2 Honours dissertations, (There was a short discussion on how to submit Honours Theses to the Library, and it was suggested the FoS and the Library discuss how to modernize submission of the Honours Thesis.)
  - ii. Complete calendar change proposals
  - iii. Calendar changes packages – Library report (Reference from the Library, for information only.)

*(Sullivan/Hourihan)*. **Carried.**

**B. Graduate Studies Committee:**

Presented by Adrian Fiech, Chair, Graduate Studies Committee

- a. Department of Chemistry
  - i. CHEM-6290, Special Topics Course, Nuclear Science, approved by the Faculty of Science Graduate Committee and presented to Faculty Council for information only.

**C. Library Committee: No Business**

**FSC 3089 Dean's Report**

Welcome and thank you to C. Thorpe for taking on the role of the Acting Associate Dean (Undergraduate and Administration), and D. Hallett for stepping in as Acting Head of Psychology. A warm thank you to S. Dufour for serving as the Acting Associate Dean (Undergraduate and Administration) for three years. Welcome back to M. Berry as Head of Biochemistry and thank you to R. Bertolo for stepping in as Head of Biochemistry for the last year. Also welcomed to P. Gagnon who will be assuming the role as Head of Ocean Sciences.

The Faculty of Science has three headship searches that are almost complete in the Departments of Chemistry, Earth Sciences and Mathematics and Statistics. A review has started for the Associate Dean (Graduate and Research) position.

The university has incurred more than a 9-million-dollar deficit budget this fiscal year. The university has paused all tenure-track positions and full time hiring for staff and has implemented a limited hiring process for staff positions. The exception to this hiring freeze is where there is targeted funding and not a part of this deficit.

### **FSC 3090      Questions**

M. Berry announced the passing of Dr. Seán Brosnan. M. Berry will notify the faculty with further details once received.

R. Haynes asked what the University's discussions with the government has been about the 9-million-dollar shortfall. The Dean said the only update right now is the information he informed Faculty Council of today.

R. Haynes asked about the 3% decrease in the budget that was discussed earlier in the academic year. The Dean said the faculty prepared for a 3% decrease, however the Faculty of Science received approximately less than one percent decrease. This year the faculty is in a good fiscal position.

MUNSU expressed concern about the pause of faculty hires and how this would affect their classes and programs. The Dean explained that this is only a pause. MUNSU asked if this information is shared with the university community. The Dean said the President announced the 9-million-dollar deficit at senate early December.

M. Berry asked if MUN receives more money per student from Government than any other university and what happens with the money received? The Dean said that is his understanding and that it had been explained to him that it costs money to maintain a multi-campus facility.

### **FSC 3091      Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 2:03pm