Faculty of Science
Office of the Dean
St. John's, NL, Canada A1B 3X
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deansci@mun.ca www.mun.ca/science

MEETING OF THE FACULTY COUNCIL OF THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE

A regular meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science will be held on Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 1:00pm by WebEx and in-person (**Room: A-1046**).

AGENDA

1. **Approval of Agenda**
2. **Adoption of the Minutes of February 25, 2025,** (pages 2-5)
3. **Business Arising from the Minutes**
4. **Reports of Standing Committees:**
   - **A. Undergraduate Studies Committee**
     a) Department of Mathematics and Statistics, Calendar Changes, Amended course: MATH 2260 Ordinary Differential Equations I, MATH 3161 Ordinary Differential Equations II, MATH 4160 Partial Differential Equations I., Paper 5. A. a. (pages 7-17)
     b) Dean's List, Criteria Edits, Paper 5. A. b. (pages 19-20)
     c) The Lou Visentin Award, new wording around completion of a degree in three years rather than the usual four., Paper 5. A. c. (pages 21-22)
   - **B. Graduate Studies Committee:** no business
   - **C. Library Committee: no business**
5. **Report of the Dean**
6. **Question Period**
7. **Adjournment**

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY
Faculty of Science
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FACULTY OF SCIENCE
FACULTY COUNCIL OF SCIENCE
Minutes of Meeting of 25 February 2026

A meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science was held on Wednesday, February 26, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. using a hybrid model of WebEx and in-person (CSF 1302).

FSC 3150 Present

Biology
A. Chaulk

Human Biosciences
M. Berry**,** V. Booth, J. Park, J. Brunton, R. Bertolo

Chemistry
B. Power, L. Cahill, H. Reader, E. Merschrod, H. Grover, K. Hattenhauer, S. Smith

Computer Science
D. Churchill, C. Hyde, T. Tricco

Earth Sciences

Mathematics & Statistics
K. Nirmalkanna, T. Baird, S. Sullivan, B. Austin, D. Dyer, I. Booth, A. Hatefi, D. Silvesan, D. Pike, J. Craighead, T. Stuckless, Y. Yilmaz, JC Loredo-Osti, R. Haynes

Ocean Sciences
A. Mercer, D. Boyce, J. Santander, J. Greening, J. Wroblweski,

Physics & Physical Oceanography
E. Hayden, D. Coombs, K. Poduska, S. Wallin

Psychology
C. Sullivan, K. Hourihan, S. Blandford

Dean of Science Office
J. Blundell, J. Bowering, M. Fitzpatrick, S. Garasym, J. Gauld, G. Jackson, J. Kavanagh, T. Mackenzie, R. Newhook, N. Squires, L. Frizzell, S. Hutcherson, T. Fridgen, C. Reid

Student Representatives
E. Gnam, J. Lamarre, M. LaSaga, M. Kocela, Y. Tao

FSC 3151 Approval of the Agenda

Moved: Approved. (*Dyer, Hayden*) **Carried**

FSC 3152: Adoption of the Minutes of December 10, 2025

Moved: Minutes of the meeting of December 10, 2025, be adopted. (*Sullivan, Hayden*) **Carried.**

FSC 3153 Business Arising: No Business

FSC 3154 Research Innovation Office Presentation:
Guest Speaker, Dion Hicks, Research Innovation Office presentation on Lab 2 Market (presentation attached).

FSC 3155 Reports of Standing Committees:

A. Undergraduate Studies Committee:

Presented by Shannon Sullivan, Chair of the Undergraduate Studies Committee:

a) New wording around completion of a degree in three years rather than the usual four years. Paper 5.A.(a).

There was considerable discussion around the process for students to request to be on the Lou Visentin list if they have completed their degree in less than three years. It was suggested that this be reviewed again and reworded.

Tabled – back to FoScUgs

B. Graduate Studies Committee:

Presented by Jacqueline Blundell, Associate Dean (Graduate and Research) for Adrian Fiech, Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee:

b) Department of Physics and Physical Oceanography: Request for Approval of Special Topics Courses, PHYS 6915 Low Temperature Condensed Matter Methods and PHYS 6916 Perturbation and Asymptotic Methods, approved by the Faculty of Science Graduate Studies Committee and brought to Faculty Council for information only, Paper 5.B.(a).

C. Library Committee: No business

FSC 3156 Dean's Report

The Presidents tour of the Faculty of Science laboratory space with Dr. Gauld took 1.5 hours to complete. Most departments were visited with the exception of Math, Computer Science, and Ocean Sciences. Thanks are extended to the tour guides and the President would like to see more of our spaces in a future visit.

Departmental Highlights

Earth Sciences

A new species was discovered in Upper Island Cove by Dr. Duncan McIlroy and PhD student Simon Rosse-Guillevic. *Aninoides* coombsorum *is 550 mil*lion years old, which places it in the Ediacaran period.

Link to Gazette article: https://gazette.mun.ca/research/digging-up-history/?_ga=2.216398422.1174112903.1771942572-1125540346.1679934900

Chemistry

29th Chemistry Colloquium Contest held on 29 January, ongoing since 1993.

First Taco Tuesday was a huge success and sold out in record time.

Mathematics and Statistics

Department of Education, Math teachers, Mathematics and Statistics have agreement with TechNL to sponsor the senior high school math league.

FSC 3157 Questions

The Dean spoke about the budget reality and that the Faculty is trying to increase revenues and decrease its expenses, while, for instance, reviewing the structure of programs in the faculty. Previously submitted suggestions by Faculty of Science members was also noted with a request for suggestions. Teaching plans are still being reviewed and things need to be looked at as whole, including simplifying the first year schedules for students. In addition, ideas such creating a Student Success HUB was noted, as well as improving utilization of space, harmonization of schedule slots between St. John's and Grenfell campuses.

Faculty members expressed frustrations regarding sending feedback when they were asked for it by the upper admininstration, and not receiving any response. It was suggested that those requests not be in a general Newsline correspondence. Council members engaged in discussions regarding the student experience, class sizes, and questioned how 8am and 5pm timeslots will affect that experience. They also asked questions around consultations for budget decisions and asked for more infromation on layoffs or non-contract renewals that were coming up. There were discussions regarding informing faculty about retirement pathways and noted that there was no expectation of retirement packages.

FSC 3158 Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 2.50pm.

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Science

Faculty of Science Undergraduate Committee (FoScUgs)
Memorial University, St. John's NL A1B 3X7
Tel: 709.864.8253
www.mun.ca

March 18, 2026

To: To Members of Faculty Council
From: FoScUgs
Subject: Transfer of Documents

Good morning,

Please see attached document(s), in both word and pdf formats, for the upcoming Faculty Council on 18 March 2026.

Amended course: MATH 2260 *Ordinary Differential Equations I*, MATH 3161 *Ordinary Differential Equations II*, MATH 4160 *Partial Differential Equations I.*

Melanie Fitzpatrick
Secretary
Faculty of Science Undergraduate Committee (FoScUgs)

Memorial University of Newfoundland
Undergraduate Calendar Change Proposal Form
Cover Page

LIST OF CHANGES

Indicate the Calendar change(s) being proposed by checking and completing as appropriate:

- ☐ New course(s):
- X Amended or deleted course(s): MATH 2260 Ordinary Differential Equations I, MATH 3161 Ordinary Differential Equations II, MATH 4160 Partial Differential Equations I
- ☐ New program(s):
- ☐ Amended or deleted program(s):
- ☐ New, amended or deleted Glossary of Terms Used in the Calendar entries
- ☐ New, amended or deleted Admission/Readmission to the University (Undergraduate) regulations
- ☐ New, amended or deleted General Academic Regulations (Undergraduate)
- ☐ New, amended or deleted Faculty, School or Departmental regulations
- ☐ Other:

ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORIZATION

By signing below, you are confirming that the attached Calendar changes have obtained all necessary Faculty/School approvals, and that the costs, if any, associated with these changes can be met from within the existing budget allocation or authorized new funding for the appropriate academic unit.

Signature of Dean/Vice-President: _____

Date: _____

Date of approval by Faculty/Academic Council: _____

Memorial University of Newfoundland
Undergraduate Calendar Change Proposal Form
Senate Summary Page for Courses

COURSE NUMBER AND TITLE

MATH 2260 Ordinary Differential Equations I
MATH 3161 Ordinary Differential Equations II
MATH 4160 Partial Differential Equations I

RATIONALE AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This updates the prerequisites of three mathematics courses to better reflect current teaching practices and make them more accessible to students.

Rationale:

1) MATH 2260 (Ordinary Differential Equations I):
   Recent changes in our calculus sequence as well as MATH 2260 mean that we can weaken the current MATH 2000 (Calculus III) prerequisite to a corequisite. Hence, we switch from

   Old Prerequisite: PR: MATH 2000
   New Prerequisite: CO: MATH 2000

   Two topics show up on 2260 that were introduced in 2000: partial derivatives and computer algebra. The partial derivatives only show up briefly in a couple of places: exact equations and the existence theorems. Together these are at most 3 lectures and since partial derivatives can be introduced fairly quickly, we think that it is not necessary to have 2000 as a prerequisite for such a small amount of material.

   The computer algebra is more significant: depending on the exact offering it may be woven all the way through 2260. However, this is typically introduced in the first two weeks of 2000. Hence, we propose weakening the 2000 prerequisite to a corequisite.

   Anecdotally, several students have been granted permission to take 2000 at the same time as 2260 in the past and have not had problems.

   The intention here is to make it possible for students to access 2260 earlier in their programs.

2) MATH 3161 (Ordinary Differential Equations II):
The proposed change is

Old Prerequisite: PR: MATH 2260 and MATH 3202
New Prerequisite: PR: MATH 2000 and MATH 2260

Math 3202 (Vector Calculus) is only minimally required for the current version of 3161. Material from it would be used in only a tiny fraction of the course: motivating where important Sturm-Liouville equations originate. Hence it does not need to be a pre-requisite.

However, MATH 2000 definitely is a prerequisite. A significant part of the course is series solutions of differential equations and so the series part of MATH 2000 is critical. Previously that would have been covered by 2000 being a pre-requisite for both 2260 and 3202 but with 3202 removed and 2000 becoming a co-requisite for 2260 there is an edge case where a student could fail 2000 but still get credit for 2260 and then be able to register for 3161. Hence 2000 needs to be added.

Again, the motivation is to make the course more easily accessible.

3) MATH 4160 (Partial Differential Equations I):
The proposed change is

Old Prerequisite: PR: MATH 3161
New Prerequisite: PR: MATH 3161 and MATH 3202

MATH 3202 was previously an implicit prerequisite from 3161. However, with the previous change it now needs to become explicit.

ANTICIPATED EFFECTIVE DATE

Fall 2026

CALENDAR CHANGES

MATH 2260 Ordinary Differential Equations I

introduces first and second order differential equations, systems of first order differential equations and Laplace transforms. These will be studied with both analytic techniques as well as using a computer algebra system to generate symbolic and numerical solutions. Applications include oscillatory motion and population and epidemic models.

CR: the former MATH 3260

~~PR~~ CO: MATH 2000

MATH 3161 Ordinary Differential Equations II

examines power series solutions and the method of Frobenius, along with Bessel functions, Legendre polynomials and other special functions from mathematical physics. It also presents the existence and uniqueness theorems for initial and boundary value problems, representation of solutions of linear boundary value problems, Sturm-Liouville theory, and an introduction to the calculus of variations.

PR: MATH 2000 and MATH 2260 (or the former MATH 3260) ~~and 3202~~

MATH 4160 Partial Differential Equations I

covers first-order partial differential equations, classification of second-order linear partial differential equations, separation of variables, Fourier series, Laplace's equation, the heat equation, wave equation, the method of characteristics, transform methods for the solution of initial/boundary value problems, Green's functions and the maximum principle.

PR: MATH 3161 and MATH 3202

CALENDAR ENTRY AFTER CHANGES

MATH 2260 Ordinary Differential Equations I

introduces first and second order differential equations, systems of first order differential equations and Laplace transforms. These will be studied with both analytic techniques as well as using a computer algebra system to generate symbolic and numerical solutions. Applications include oscillatory motion and population and epidemic models.

CR: the former MATH 3260
CO: MATH 2000

MATH 3161 Ordinary Differential Equations II

examines power series solutions and the method of Frobenius, along with Bessel functions, Legendre polynomials and other special functions from mathematical physics. It also presents the existence and uniqueness theorems for initial and boundary value problems, representation of solutions of linear boundary value problems, Sturm-Liouville theory, and an introduction to the calculus of variations.

PR: MATH 2000 and MATH 2260 (or the former MATH 3260)

MATH 4160 Partial Differential Equations I

covers first-order partial differential equations, classification of second-order linear partial differential equations, separation of variables, Fourier series, Laplace's equation, the heat equation, wave equation, the method of characteristics, transform methods for the solution of initial/boundary value problems, Green's functions and the maximum principle.

PR: MATH 3161 and MATH 3202

SECONDARY CALENDAR CHANGES

None.

SECONDARY CALENDAR ENTRY AFTER CHANGES

None.

Memorial University of Newfoundland
Undergraduate Calendar Change Proposal Form
Appendix Page

CONSULTATIONS SOUGHT	RESPONSE	DATE
Business	Yes/No	
Education	Yes/No	
Engineering	Yes/No	2Feb26
Grenfell Campus School of Arts & Social Science	Yes/No	
Human Kinetics and Recreation	Yes/No	
Humanities and Social Sciences	Yes/No	
Labrador Institute	Yes/No	
Library	Yes/No	
Marine Institute	Yes/No	
Medicine	Yes/No	
Music	Yes/No	9Jan26
Nursing	Yes/No	14Jan26
Pharmacy	Yes/No	13Jan26
Registrar's Office	Yes/No	
Science	Yes/No	
Biochemistry	Yes/No	
Biology	Yes/No	
Chemistry	Yes/No	
Computer Science	Yes/No	
Earth Sciences	Yes/No	
Mathematics & Statistics	Yes/No	
Ocean Sciences	Yes/No	
Physics & Physical Oceanography	Yes/No	
Psychology	Yes/No	
Co-op office	Yes/No	
Social Work	Yes/No	14Jan26

LIBRARY REPORT

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None.

Check box as applicable (☑) and *make any comments as necessary.* Use as much space as necessary.	*YES*	*NO*
Q1. Will the course be taught by a tenured or tenure track ASM as part of load? *(if yes, complete 1a to 1d; if no, proceed to Q2)*		
a) Is this a required course?		
b) Is this an elective course?		
c) Will this be taught every year?		
d) Elective course: will it hinder the academic unit's ability to offer its core program?		

Q2. If the course is not planned to be taught by a tenured or tenure track ASM, what is the plan for teaching?

Q3. Will the course require any further resources (e.g. extra administrative supports, additional teaching/technical staff, or TA supports, equipment or facilities, consumables)? Please explain each with anticipated expenses and a justification for those expenses.

Q4.What is the projected demand for the course in the first five years?

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5

Q5. What is(are) the primary mode(s) of delivery for this course, for reference see https://www.mun.ca/regoff/registration-and-final-exams/course-offerings/undergraduate-modes-of-delivery/ .

In-person	
Independent study	
Flexible	
Blended	
Remote	
Online	

Q6. Impact of new course on enrolment in existing courses.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Q7. In developing this new course, how has consideration been given to considering the best practices and principles of EDI-AR, including content, perspectives, or material into the curriculum?

Title of Proposal: _____

Checklist for Faculty of Science Course/Program Proposals

This checklist helps faculty to avoid errors and omissions in calendar change proposals. The completed checklist will be reviewed by the Dean's office in the Faculty of Science before being sent out for University-wide (and Faculty-wide) consultations. Proposals received after the deadline set (October 12, 2026) risk not making next year's University Calendar.

Faculty member: check boxes as applicable

	YES	N/A
1. Has the completed proposal been approved by your academic unit's undergraduate committee and/or by the unit as a whole, including the Head?	X	
2. Will the change impact the calendar entry of another unit/department, **including Grenfell Campus and/or interdisciplinary programs**? If so, this is identified in the "secondary change" section, and written consent should be appended.		X
3. Has a Word version of the proposal been submitted, not a pdf? (so that the Dean's Office can make edits as appropriate, if applicable. Authors will be consulted about any edits)	X	
4. Does the title on the front page of the proposal identify the name of the course/program?	X	
5. Are proposed deletions to existing Calendar language identified using strikethroughs, ~~like this~~, and proposed Calendar additions identified by underlining, like this?	X	
6. Have marks for all parts of the evaluation, and the approximate dates of evaluation, been identified? At least 20% of the final grade must be returned before the last day to drop courses without academic prejudice (roughly 2 weeks after the midterm break).		X
7. If a special topics course: has a course number been identified on the cover page of the proposal? (a number should be assigned by the Assistant Registrar for Science)		X

The person that the Dean's office should contact with any questions about the attached proposal:

Mikhail Kotchetov — Name (print)

709-864-7947 / mikhail@mun.ca — Phone / email

Departmental Head Signature: _____

Faculty Consultation Feedback

Thank you for the opportunity to review these proposed calendar changes from the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

On behalf of the School of Music, I can say that the proposed pre-requisite changes seem quite reasonable and that they will likely have no impact on students in our unit. Happy to support the proposal.

Nathan

Dr. Nathan Cook (he/him)

Associate Professor of Music

Undergraduate Program Coordinator

Chair, School of Music Undergraduate Studies Committee

Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador

St. John's, NL

709-864-3024

Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed changes to the three Math courses. There is no impact on the School of Pharmacy.

Gerona

Thank you, Melanie. There are no concerns from social work. We support the changes.

Take care.

Paul A. Issahaku (PhD)
Associate Professor, Acting Associate Dean of Undergraduate Programs School of Social Work
Memorial University of Newfoundland St. John's, Canada
Email: pissahaku@mun.ca
Tel. 7098648688

Good morning, Melanie.

Dr. April Pike, our Dean at the Faculty of Nursing, has reviewed the consultation request. She tells me that she doesn't see any implications for the Faculty of Nursing.

Have a great day!
Jane

Your proposal for Calendar changes to three MATH courses was on the agenda of the meeting that was scheduled for Wed. Feb. 18 of the Committee on Undergraduate Studies of the Faculty of Engineering and
Applied Science. Unfortunately, the storm closure caused the
cancellation of that meeting.

As chair of the committee, I offer the following comments.

MATH 2260 "Ordinary Differential Equations I" is a required course in Academic Term 4 of the Ocean and Naval Architectural Engineering (ONAE)
major. These students normally take MATH 2000 as a required course in
the preceding academic term. No other engineering major is required to
take MATH 2260. The proposal to change MATH 2000 from a prerequisite
to a corequisite for MATH 2260 therefore has no impact on our programs.

None of our majors is required to take
MATH 3161 "Ordinary Differential Equations II"
or
MATH 4160 "Partial Differential Equations I".
A few students in the ONAE major may choose to attempt a minor in
Mathematics. Otherwise, there is no impact on our programs.

As chair of the committee, I express support for these three Calendar changes.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Glyn George, Chair
Committee on Undergraduate Studies
Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science Memorial University of Newfoundland
St. John's NL A1B 3X5

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY

Faculty of Science

Faculty of Science Undergraduate Committee (FoScUgs)
Memorial University, St. John's NL A1B 3X7
Tel: 709.864.8253
www.mun.ca

April 8, 2026

To: All Members of Faculty Council, Faculty of Science
From: Melanie Fitzpatrick, Secretary, Faculty of Science Committee on Undergraduate Studies
Subject: Transmission of Documents to Faculty Council

A virtual meeting held on (Insert Date), the Faculty of Science Committee on Undergraduate Studies agreed that the following item(s) should be forwarded to Faculty Council for approval:

Dean's List and Visentin Edits

- New wording around completion of a degree in three years rather than the usual four.

Melanie Fitzpatrick
Secretary
Faculty of Science Undergraduate Committee (FoScUgs)

Dean's List Criteria Update

The Dean's List is selected ~~in June~~before the end summer of each year. Eligibility is based on academic performance in the three preceding semesters (Spring, Fall, and Winter, inclusive). The top 10 percent of students in the Faculty of Science are admitted to the Dean's List, provided ~~that~~ they have met the following requirements:

- ~~Registered~~ registered for the degree of B.Sc. or B.Sc. honours on St. John's campus or ~~(~~an undeclared first-year student~~s are also eligible if they meet the remaining criteria)~~on St. John's campus~~;~~
- completed at least 9 courses (27 credit hours) over two of the previous three semesters, received a numeric grade in each of these courses except where no option for a numeric grade was available, and attained an average grade of at least 80% and a GPA of 3.50~~.~~. ~~in these~~ The numerical and GPA are for all courses taken in all three semesters, not the best 9 courses~~;~~
    - students who have an approved accommodation that includes a reduced course load will also be considered as long as they meet the other criteria
- taken at least 6 of those courses (18 credit hours) from departments in the Faculty of Science, inclusive of the Departments of Economics and Geography, and Grenfell Science Courses.
- A student who completed a co-op work term during the nomination period is eligible if a Pass With Distinction was awarded in that period and a minimum of four courses were taken in one semester, at least one of which is from departments in the Faculty of Science including the Departments of Economics and Geography and Grenfell science courses.
- ~~Other nominations may be made at the discretion of the Dean of Science in recognition of academic performance of exceptional merit.~~

Dean’s List Criteria Update

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- registered for the degree of B.Sc. or B.Sc. honours on St. John’s campus or an undeclared first-year student on St. John’s campus
- completed at least 9 courses (27 credit hours) over two of the previous three semesters, received a numeric grade in each of these courses except where no option for a numeric grade was available, and attained an average grade of at least 80% and a GPA of 3.50. The numerical and GPA are for all courses taken in all three semesters, not the best 9 courses
    - students who have an approved accommodation that includes a reduced course load will also be considered as long as they meet the other criteria
- taken at least 6 of those courses (18 credit hours) from departments in the Faculty of Science, inclusive of the Departments of Economics and Geography, and Grenfell Science Courses.
- A student who completed a co-op work term during the nomination period is eligible if a Pass With Distinction was awarded in that period and a minimum of four courses were taken in one semester, at least one of which is from departments in the Faculty of Science including the Departments of Economics and Geography and Grenfell science courses.

The Lou Visentin Award

The Lou Visentin Award is the highest honour for undergraduate academic excellence in the Faculty of Science. It is bestowed upon students graduating with a B.Sc. or B.Sc. Honours degree who have achieved Dean's or Director's List status for all four years of their program.

Students who finish their degree in less than four years, but who complete at least 120 credit hours through a combination of Memorial University courses and recognised university-level high school courses (such as those offered via the Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate programs), can apply for consideration to receive the Lou Visentin Award by e-mailing science@mun.ca.

This prestigious award honours consistent academic excellence and is highlighted by its distinctive certificate design. Each certificate showcases a unique image, created by Dr. Lou Visentin, the award's namesake. The image, elegantly drawn with a single continuous line, is displayed below.

The Lou Visentin Award

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