



Faculty of Science

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**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
FACULTY COUNCIL OF SCIENCE
Minutes of Meeting of February 21, 2024**

A meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science was held on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. using a hybrid model of WebEx and in-person (C-2045).

FSC 3057 Present

Biochemistry

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

Biology

A. Chaulk, D. Harvey

Business Administration

M. Eghbali-Zarch

Chemistry

C. Bottaro, H. Grover, E. Merschrod, S. Pansare, B. Power, H. Reader, S. Smith, J. Stockman, M. Katz, H. Therien-Aubin

Computer Science

S. Bungay, A. Fiech, C. Hyde

Economics

K. Chu

Mathematics & Statistics

J. Alam, R. Haynes, J.C. Loredano-Osti, A. Solomon, T. Stuckless, S. Sullivan, A. Variyath

Ocean Sciences

P. Gagnon, C. Parrish

Physics & Physical Oceanography

M. Evstigneev, E. Hayden, J. LeBlanc, I. Saika-Voivod, L. Zedel

Psychology

S. Blandford, K. Hourihan, C. Thorpe

Dean of Science Office

J. Bowering, S. Dufour, T. Fridgen, L. Frizzell, S. Garasym, C. Hussey, G. Jackson, J. Kavanagh, P. MacCallum, V. MacNab, J. Major, T. Mackenzie, R. Newhook, D. Nichols, R. Temple

Student Representatives

W. Kinden, I. Omeh, A. Ullah, N. Vadood

Regrets

A. Lang

Guest Speakers

S. Arnott, N. Clark, A. Farrell, P. Price, C. Squires

FSC 3058 Adoption of Minutes
Moved: Minutes of the meeting of December 6, 2023, be adopted. (Loredo-Osti/Bungay) **One Abstention. Carried.**

FSC 3059 Business Arising: No Business

FSC 3060 Correspondence: No Report

FSC 3061 Reports of Standing Committees:

A. Undergraduate Students Committee:

Presented by Shannon Sullivan, Chair, Undergraduate Studies Committee,

- a. Department of Biochemistry – Calendar Changes, HUBI 4241, Approved by Undergraduate Studies Committee and presented to Faculty Council for information only.

B. Graduate Studies Committee:

Presented by Adrian Fiech, Chair, Graduate Studies Committee

- a. Department of Psychology, Special Topics Course, PSYC 6122, approved by the Graduate Committee and present to Faculty Council for information only.

C. Library Committee: No Business

FSC 3062 Presentation – Security and Data Management – Active Data Storage Solutions available to Memorial Researchers

Alison Farrell discussed the types of active data storage available to Memorial.

Craig Squires explained that ACENET has three clusters with 100 GB of storage in the home directory, and for research groups there is an additional 1 TB of storage.

There is also the Globus Portal with is a fast and reliable way to transfer terabytes of data between two locations.

For more information, contact Craig Squires at craig.squires@ace-net.ca.

Paul Price with [Centre for Analytics, Informatics and Research \(CAIR\)](#) explained that CAIR offers large amounts of data and secure storage on and off campus. The approximate cost of 120 TB of storage would be \$120. For more information contact Paul Price at pprice@mun.ca.

Sarah Arnott with the Office of the Chief Information Office shared information on Microsoft 365, with a large amount of services including One Drive, Teams, Outlook and much more. All employees of Memorial have access to these services. OneDrive and Teams are stored in the Canadian Microsoft data bank.

Those with concerns about Microsoft services for storage might want to consider using CAIR Services or Aliant Services which are held within the university itself or in Canada.

There was further discussion on Microsoft services, and it was suggested by Sarah Arnott to have a separate meeting about using the services. For more information, contact Sarah Arnott at sarnott@mun.ca.

Alison Farrell offered to visit each department to answer any questions. Please contact Alison Farrell at alisonr@mun.ca.

Please see the links below for more information.

<https://alliancecan.ca/en/services/advanced-research-computing/national-services/storage>

<https://alliancecan.ca/en/services/advanced-research-computing/national-services/data-movement-globus>

<https://alliancecan.ca/en/services/advanced-research-computing/national-services/cloud>

<https://alliancecan.ca/en/services/advanced-research-computing/accessing-resources/resource-allocation-competition>

<https://www.mun.ca/cio/it-services/email-and-collaboration/microsoft-365/>

FSC 3063 International Graduate Students – Immigration Regulations

Natasha Clark from the Internationalization Office gave a presentation on two major announcements about international graduate students. Presentation attached (Changes to the International Student Program (ISP)). For more information contact immigrationadvising@mun.ca.

FSC 3064 Report of Dean:

Associate Dean's Remarks

On February 14, 2024 the federal government announced the new policy on *Sensitive Technology Research and Affiliations of Concern* ([STRAC](#)). The STRAC will come into effect May 1, 2024. Procedures (e.g., risk assessments, attestations) are also expected at that time. Under STRAC: two lists, which are **not static**, must be considered together – the [Sensitive Technology Research Areas](#) and [Named Research Organizations](#). [Due diligence](#) to protect your sensitive research is expected, even in the absence of affiliations of concern. This applies to tri-agency funding programs only, though other federal government agencies may follow. Training available with Research Security Centre (Workshops) has been circulated.

Dean's Remarks

The registrar's office is asking faculties, departments, faculty, and staff to remind students to apply for convocation. The deadline will be announced in March.

It is budget season and the Dean's office is busy preparing a budget plan and seeking input from heads with regards their teaching and future staffing plans. We are being asked to plan for a scenario of potential base budget cuts in anticipation of the government continuing to claw back the grant in lieu of a tuition freeze, but none of this is known. Further exacerbating this is the new TAUMUN collective agreement that produces an unfunded increase in costs associated with graduate student teaching assistants.

FSC 3065 Question Period:

Erika Merschrod suggested the faculty be very clear that cutting TA hours because they negotiated an increase in pay of their recent agreement is very wrong. The Dean agreed with this statement and said we are exacerbating the budget planning to find the funding to pay the TA hours. Erika Merschrod said it was her understanding to cut the TA hours next year because of that increase. The Dean

stated that we are looking to fund the number of TAs that a department requires and the Departments were asked to stay within their budget.

FSC 3066

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 2:11pm.

Changes to the International Student Program (ISP)

Internationalization Office
Memorial University of Newfoundland

Winter 2024

WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM (ISP)?

- IRCC underwent review of ISP in 2023
- 4 Pillars of Modernized ISP
 - Recognized Institution Framework
 - To be implemented for Fall 2024
 - Memorial was part of test group in 2023
 - Program Integrity
 - LOA verification December 1, 2023
 - Equitable Access
 - Compatible work Pathways
 - Planning to review and reform PGWP

WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM (ISP)?

- Two major recent announcements:
 - **December 7, 2023**
 - Reforms to increase financial requirement January 1, 2024 (to be revised annually)
 - Temporary public policy related to off campus work hour restriction extended to April 30, 2024
 - Those who applied for study permit on or after December 7, 2023 can work unlimited hours off campus
 - PGWP distance learning facilitative measures extended to August 31, 2024
 - Distance learning and study outside of Canada can be counted towards PGWP eligibility (in some circumstances)

WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM (ISP)?

- Two major recent announcements (cont):
 - **January 22, 2024**
 - Cap on study permit applications – temporary measure for 2 years
 - Requirement of provincial attestation letter for some (effective January 22, 2024)
 - Changes to spousal open work permit (in coming weeks)
 - Restricted to spouses of Masters, PhD and professional program students
 - Change to PGWP
 - Masters students eligible for 3 year PGWP from February 15, 2024
 - Private-Public-Partnerships no longer eligible from September 1, 2024

FINANCIAL REQUIREMENT

Number of family members (including the applicant)	Amount of funds required per year (not including tuition)
1	CAN\$20,635
2	CAN\$25,690
3	CAN\$31,583
4	CAN\$38,346
5	CAN\$43,492
6	CAN\$49,051
7	CAN\$54,611
If more than 7 people, each additional family member	CAN\$5,559

CAP ON STUDY PERMIT APPLICATIONS

- Cap of a maximum of 606 250 study permit applications for those who require a PAL
- A 35% reduction in study permit applications

PROVINCIAL ATTESTATION LETTER (PAL)

- As of 8:30 am ET on January 22, 2024, most students must include a provincial attestation letter (PAL) from the province or territory where they plan to study with their study permit application.
- In most cases, if you apply without a PAL, your application will be returned with fees.
- You do **not** need a PAL when applying for a study permit if you
 - are applying to study in a preschool, primary school or secondary school (up to grade 12)
 - are applying to study in a master's **degree** or doctoral **degree** program **or**

PROVINCIAL ATTESTATION LETTER (PAL)

- You do **not** need a PAL when applying for a study permit if you
 - have entered Canada **and** one of the following situations applies to you:
 - You're applying for a study permit extension.
 - You have a work permit.
 - You're a temporary resident who is a visiting or exchange student studying at a designated learning institution (DLI).
 - You're a temporary resident who has completed a course or program of study that is a prerequisite to you enrolling at a DLI.
 - You're under a removal order, but can't be removed from Canada at this time.
 - You have a [temporary resident permit](#) valid for at least 6 months.
 - You're the family member of a foreign national who lives in Canada and is one of the following:
 - a study permit holder
 - a work permit holder
 - a temporary resident permit holder with a permit that's valid for at least 6 months
 - a member of armed forces in another country under the [Visiting Forces Act](#)
 - an [accredited foreign government representative](#)
 - a participant in [certain sports activities or events](#)
 - a worker in Canada who is a [member of a foreign news company](#)
 - a [religious worker](#)

REFERENCES

- News Release, December 7, 2024- <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/2023/12/revised-requirements-to-better-protect-international-students.html>
- Financial Requirement- IRCC public facing website- <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/study-permit/get-documents.html#financial-reqs>
- Temporary Public policies on of campus work:
 - <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/mandate/policies-operational-instructions-agreements/public-policies/off-campus-work-2023-update.html>
 - <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/corporate/mandate/policies-operational-instructions-agreements/public-policies/off-campus-work-2023-update-2.html>
- News Release, January 22, 2024- <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/2024/01/canada-to-stabilize-growth-and-decrease-number-of-new-international-student-permits-issued-to-approximately-360000-for-2024.html>
 - Backgrounder- <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/2024/01/making-canadas-international-student-program-sustainable.html>
- Cap ministerial instructions, February 3, 2024 in Gazette - <https://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2024/2024-02-03/html/notice-avis-eng.html#na1>
- Notice, February 5, 2024 <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/news/notices/international-student-program-reform-more-information.html>
- IRCC public facing website: Attestation Letters- <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/study-canada/study-permit/get-documents.html#attestation>

IMMIGRATION SUPPORT @ MEMORIAL

Empathy. Knowledge. Responsiveness.



ABU ARIF MA, RISIA

ADVISOR: IMMIGRATION AND
SPECIAL PROJECTS



NATASHA CLARK MA, RCIC

ADVISOR: IMMIGRATION AND
HEALTH INSURANCE



PANIZ SAREMIRAD, RISIA

ADVISOR: IMMIGRATION

Ways Students can Connect with an Immigration Advisor

- 1. Book an appointment for one on one consultation:** Download Navigate for Students in the Apple App Store or Google Play.
- 2. Drop-in for virtual one-on-one Drop in Hours:** Check Navigate for a schedule of drop in hours, or see www.mun.ca/international/programming/immigrationadvising/
- 3. Attend an Information Session:**
Special Topics - held in Brightspace every Tuesday and Thursday at 12pm NLT
- 4. Email:** You can email immigrationadvising@mun.ca