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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 25 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, S. Smith

Chemistry
B. Power, L. Cahill, H. Reader, Y. Tao, E. Merschrod, H. Grover, K. Hattenhauer

Computer Science
D. Churchill, C. Hyde, R. Haynes, 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

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

FSC 3151 Approval of the Agenda

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

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

FSC 3152 Business Arising: No Business

FSC 3153 Research Innovation Office Presentation:
Guest Speaker, Dion Hicks Intellectual Property (presentationn attached).

FSC 3154 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).

Concerns around putting too much on students to request, need to ensure student body are aware of process, AP classes from grade schools should be included. Reword.

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 3155 Dean's Report

Presidents tour took one and one half hours, most labs visited with the exception of Computer Studies and Ocean Sciences. Thanks are extended to the tour guides. The President would like to see more in future.

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.

Budget Update

Slides attached.

FSC 3156 Questions

Discussion around the budget, comments and suggestions such as reorganize how programs are offered, utilization of space, timing (between St. John's and Grenfell Campus), centralization of APO's, reduction of courses and their scheduling. Many asking who has been consulted regarding the budget, how lay-offs will be approached, will there be a pension buy-out program for near-retirees. Ultimately there was much concern around the student experience.

Early and late (8am and 5pm) timeslots are considered ineffectual as many students are no shows, many have to work after the school day.

Class size is another issue along with teaching terms.

Request for more detailed budget and positions to be layed off, contracts not being renewed.
A request for feedback was issued but very little is being returned. Maybe extend and advertise better rather than buried in a newsline article.

Encourage Faculty, Staff and Students to submit feedback to the Dean's office.

Rumours and not knowing is not good for morale, felt widely across campus.

FSC 3157 Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.