



Faculty of Science

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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, March 19 at 1:00 p.m. by a hybrid model of WebEx and in-person (Room: C- 2045).

AGENDA

- 1. Regrets**
- 2. Adoption of the Minutes of December 4, 2024 (page 2-5) and February 19, 2025 (page 6-8)**
- 3. Business Arising from the Minutes**
- 4. Correspondence:** No Correspondence
- 5. Centre for Analytics, Informatics and Research (CAIR)**
- 6. Other Business – Departmental Name Change Request (page 17-18)**
- 7. Reports of Standing Committees:**
 - A. Undergraduate Studies Committee:** No Reports
 - B. Graduate Studies Committee:** No Reports
 - C. Library Committee:** No business
- 8. Report of the Dean**
- 9. Question Period**
- 10. Adjournment**

Travis Fridgen, Ph.D.
Interim Dean of Science



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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. 5th, 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. 5th, 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



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FACULTY OF SCIENCE FACULTY COUNCIL OF SCIENCE Minutes of Meeting of February 19, 2025

A meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science was held on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. using a hybrid model of WebEx and in-person (C-2045).

FSC 3092 Present

Biology

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

Biochemistry

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

Chemistry

M. Katz, F. Kerton, C. Kozak, 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, H. Neilson, I. Saika-Voivod, L. Zedel

Psychology

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

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

S. Ahmed, F. Dominie, E. Gnam, F. Ishrak, E. Mohammadreza, N. Penton, F. Probandno

Regrets

K. Pushkarenko (HKR Representative)

FSC 3093 Adoption of Minutes

(Minutes of December 4, 2024 will be held until Faculty Council in March.)

FSC 3094 Business Arising: No Business**FSC 3095 Correspondence: No Report****FSC 3096 Sustainable Science Commitment**

Presented by Mikhailey Wheeler and Olivia Wyper (presentation attached)

On February 20, 2025 the Faculty of Science will be signing a sustainable science commitment that originates from “Green Chemistry”.

FSC 3097 Reports of Standing Committees:**A. Undergraduate Students Committee: No Reports****B. Graduate Studies Committee:**

Presented by Adrian Fiech, Chair, Graduate Studies Committee

- a. Department of Computer Science, Special Topics Course, COMP 6780, Special Topics in Tactile Robotic Manipulation, approved by the Faculty of Science Graduate committee and presented to Faculty Council for information only.

C. Library Committee: No Business**FSC 3098 Dean’s Report**

Thank you to S. Pansare for serving as Head of Chemistry for six years and a warm welcome to C. Bottaro for assuming the role as the next Head of Chemistry for a 3-year term. Thank you to G. Dunning for assuming the role as Head of Earth Sciences for another three years. Thank you to JC Loredano-Osti for serving as Head of Mathematics and Statistics for six years and a warm welcome to I. Booth for assuming the role as Head of Mathematics and Statistics for a 3-year term.

The review of the Associate Dean (Graduate and Research) position is well underway. A survey for feedback will be sent out to all faculty, staff and students within the Faculty of Science next week.

Thank you to J. Major, who has worked with the Faculty of Science as a Grants Facilitation Officer for the last four years. She will be joining RIS for a 3-year secondment. Please redirect your questions to P. MacCallum.

FSC 3099 Questions

M. Barry asked if there was an update on the funding for outreach. The Dean informed Faculty Council that the proposal was resubmitted on Tuesday, February 18 and will update once the proposal is reviewed. Funding is expected for [Foster](#). Some of the areas this funding was requested was to help support Foster, hiring co-op students, SURA students, SEA conference, expansion of the Science camps.

L. Zedel asked for an update on what's happening with building maintenance. M. Berry asked if it would be possible to have more notice from Facilitates Management.

M. Berry said snow clearing is an issue on campus. The Dean suggested to take pictures of the blocked doorways, sidewalks, etc. and upload them to the MUN safe app.

FSC 3100 Adjournment:

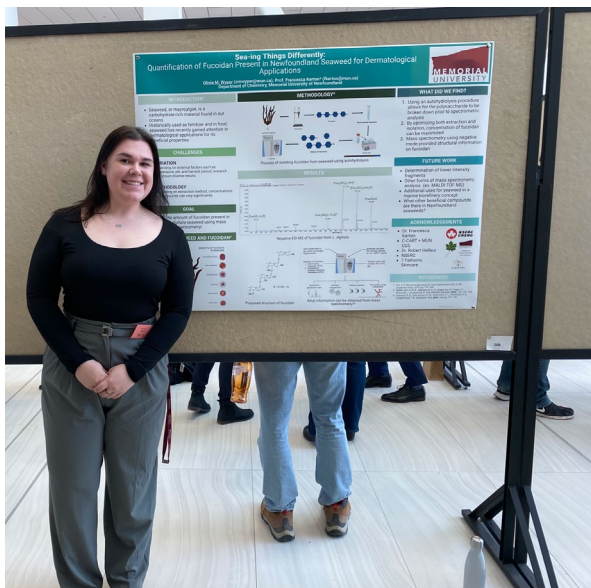
Meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m.

“Greening” the Faculty of Science

Green Chemistry Commitment

Faculty of Science - Council Meeting
Mikhailey Wheeler and Olivia Wyper

Who are we?



Mikhailey Wheeler
5th year PhD candidate, Chemistry
Kerton Group



What does it mean to “green” the faculty?

Green Chemistry: the design of chemical products and processes that reduce and/or eliminate the use or generation of hazardous substances

AKA - being safe and sustainable

Our mission: sign the green chemistry commitment and work with Beyond Benign to transform the Faculty of Science into a more sustainable unit

Note: the idea of green chemistry applies to all disciplines of science, not just chemistry



What is the Green Chemistry Commitment?

A framework to unite the 'green chemistry' higher education community

Signing the commitment will:

- Expand/access to the community (connecting us to other universities)
- Grow departmental resources (e.g., grants, professional development, awards)
- Improve student connections to job opportunities (GC-TLC, webinars, etc.)
- Affect systemic and lasting change in science education through curriculum and labs



What is required of us?

No set objectives, no deadlines.

**Just a commitment to continual improvement towards
sustainability**

A staff/faculty member will collect departmental data complete an **annual online report** highlighting accomplishments and future goals



Who else has signed the green chemistry commitment? Page 14 of 18



Notable mentions include McMaster, McGill, UBC, UofT, & 13 other Canadian Institutions



Each department would simply have to TRY

What are *some* examples of what we can do?

1. **Reducing paper waste/recycle when needed** (online assignments and lab reports)
2. **Revising departmental curricula to include topics of sustainability** (e.g., Toxicology course from Beyond Benign)
3. **Collaboration between the departments/within the department**
4. **Power off a device you're not actively using**

Questions?
Thanks for your time!

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Faculty of Science

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Memorandum

March 17, 2025

To: Board of Regents

From: Dr. Scott Harding, Deputy Head, Undergraduate Studies

Subject: Departmental Name Change

In Fall 2024, the Department of Biochemistry voted unanimously to change its name to the Department of Human Biosciences. This change reflects the department's evolution in both academic programming and research focus.

The Senate approved the new academic program, titled "Human Biosciences", to begin enrolling students in the 2023-2024 academic year. At that time the department also began to phase out the older programs previously offered. The University will graduate its first BSc students with a major in Human Biosciences at the May 2025 convocation celebrations.

The department's historical undergraduate degrees in Biochemistry and Nutrition were consolidated into a single interdisciplinary Human Biosciences degree, which integrates biochemistry, nutrition, pharmacology, and toxicology. The new name — Human Biosciences — better captures this broader academic scope while retaining biochemistry as a core area of study.

The research conducted by faculty has also expanded into this interdisciplinary space, focusing on how food, drugs, and environmental factors influence human health at molecular, cellular, systemic, and populations levels. Therefore, the new academic program design and name better captures the scope of the expert-led teaching that now occurs in the department.

Therefore, this name change aligns our departmental identity with both our educational mission and our research strengths, ensuring clarity for prospective students, the broader university community, collaborators, and community stakeholders.

Additional context:

- To date, significant human resources have gone into the redevelopment of the program, course creation, and the changes to the University Calendar needed to create the new

course codes "HUBI" which are now appearing along side the legacy "BIOC" course codes (in separate areas of the Calendar).

- The undergraduate student society has already adopted the Human Biosciences name.
- With the Human Biosciences program fully launched and former programs discontinued, the misalignment between the department name and program name is creating confusion for students.
- All relevant scholarships and awards have been updated to reference Human Biosciences rather than Biochemistry or Nutrition.

We are requesting that the Board approve the change of departmental name from the Department of Biochemistry to the Department of Human Biosciences. In addition to this request, a calendar change proposal is being prepared for submission to the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies to align the university calendar with the new name of the department.

CC: Dean of Science; Associate Dean of Science (Undergraduate and Administration); Head of Department of Biochemistry; Secretary of Senate