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

A meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science was held on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. using a hybrid model of WebEx and in-person (CSF-1302).

FSC 3127 **Present**

Biology
A. Chaulk, H. Marshall, M. Rise

Human Biosciences
R. Bertolo, M. Berry, J. Brunton, S. Harding, S. Mayengbam, A. Todd

Chemistry
C. Bottaro, H. Grover, J. Stockmann

Computer Science
S. Bungay, D. Churchill, A. Fiech, J. Henderson, C. Hyde, A, Malcolm

Earth Sciences
G. Dunning

Mathematics & Statistics
J. Alam, I. Booth, D. Dyer, R. Haynes, M. Merkli, K. Nirmalkanna, D. Pike, T. Sheel, T. Stuckless, S. Sullivan

Ocean Sciences
P. Gagnon

Physics & Physical Oceanography
D. Coombs, S. Curnoe, I. Saika-Voivod

Psychology
S. Blandford, D. Hallett, K. Hourihan, C. Thorpe, D. Wilson

Dean of Science Office
J. Blundell, J. Bowering, J. Ceha, M. Fitzpatrick, S. Garasym, J. Gauld, C. Hussey, G. Jackson, J. Kavanagh, T. Mackenzie, Nicole Squires

Representatives from other Faculties
K. Chu (Economics)

Student Representatives
E. Chirinos, E. Gramm, A. Hammond, M. Kocela, K. Parsons

FSC 3135 Approval of the Agenda

Moved: Approved. (*Bungay, Berry*) **Carried**

Correction: An error was found in item 3.B.a: EASC 6901 should read EASC 6907.

Moved: Minutes of the meeting of October 15, 2025, be adopted. (*Sullivan, Berry*) **Carried.**

Note: A correction was made to the attendance: remove F. Kerton from Biochemistry.

FSC 3136 Business Arising: No Business

FSC 3137 Correspondence: No Report

FSC 3138 Reports of Standing Committees:

A. Undergraduate Studies Committee:

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

a) Department of Biology, proposal to amend BIOL 2250, Principles of Genetics,

(*Sullivan, Chaulk*) **Carried**.

b) Department of Biology, proposal to regularize special topics course BIOL 4920 to BIOL 3532 Cell and Molecular Biology of Cancer, (Minor changes to be made, department will submit these changes to the Dean of Science office.)

(*Sullivan, Marshall*) **Carried**.

c) Departments of Earth Sciences and Geography, proposal to Cross-list GEOG 4190 Coastal Geomorphology and EASC 4710 Coastal Geomorphology

(*Sullivan, Marshall*) **Carried**.

d) Department of Physics and Physical Oceanography, proposal to amend PHYS 3550 Electric Circuits

(*Sullivan, Marshall*) **Carried**.

e) Department of Psychology, proposal to amend program regulations, new course proposals, amend PSYC course having PRs revised and deleted course proposals

(*Sullivan, Thorpe*) **Carried**.

B. Graduate Studies Committee:

Presented by Adrian Fiech, Chair of the Graduate Studies Committee:

a. Department of Earth Sciences, Request for Approval of a Graduate Course; EASC 6179 Advanced Digital Signal Processing

(*Fiech, Malcolm)* **Carried**.

b. Department of Earth, Request for Approval of a Graduate Course; EASC 6907 An introduction to Computer Earth Modelling

(*Fiech, Malcolm)* **Carried**.

c. Masters of Data Science, Proposed Calendar Changes

(*Fiech, Blundell)* **Carried**.

d. Department of Ocean Sciences, Calendar Changes, Deletion of the Interdisciplinary program in Aquaculture; New degree programs (PhD and MSc); Supervisory committee composition, (Minor changes to be made, department will submit these changes to the Dean of Science office.)

(*Fiech, Gagnon)* **Carried**.

C. Library Committee: No business

FSC 3139 Dean's Report

A sincere thank-you to President Janet Morrison for taking the time to introduce herself to our faculty and for thoughtfully addressing our questions during the special Faculty Council meeting on November 5, 2025.

Departmental Highlights

Biology

Dr. Sadri Znaidi has been awarded a Janeway Foundation Research Award to study microbial colonization in children with cystic fibrosis (CF), in collaboration with clinicians from the Janeway Children's Health and Rehabilitation Centre.
Dr. Amy Hurford's abstract "Importation models for travel-related SARS-CoV-2 cases reported in Newfoundland and Labrador during the COVID-19 pandemic" has been accepted for publication in Royal Society Open Science and will be released in the coming weeks.
Kathryn Cole received two School of Graduate Studies awards: the TD Graduate Bursary for Environmental Study and the F.A. Aldrich Graduate Award.
Josh Mack (MSc Biology) received the TD Environmental Bursary.
Dr. Amy Hurford's PhD student Abdou Fofana was awarded an AI4PH (Artificial Intelligence for Public Health) scholarship.

Dr. Jeanette Wheeler's PhD student Marcela Castaño Rodriguez was awarded a Research Mobilization Fellowship through Memorial's Research Innovation Office—one of only 17 awarded internationally this year from more than 120 applicants.

Chemistry

Lindsay Cahill was elected to the Royal Society of Canada, College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists for 2025.

The Chemistry Graduate Society held its very first Annual Chemistry Research Symposium on October 24th, there was a full day of talks and posters. Congratulations to the organizers and participants.

Computer Science

Computer Science had three teams of undergraduate students compete in the International Collegiate Programming Contest (North American Northeast Regional Contest) on Nov 9, and one of their teams placed first among Atlantic Canadian universities.

Earth Sciences

Earth Sciences stratigraphers and geophysicists are involved in several major projects with Engineering in the field of carbon sequestration. These projects involve identifying suitable now- depleted reservoirs in which to inject liquid CO2 and test those reservoirs for their ability to hold CO2 long term without leakage.

Geophysicists in Earth Sciences with collaborators from UQAM and Yale University have deployed 20 solar-powered seismometers to cover the entire island of Newfoundland to measure natural earthquake seismic waves for the next 2 years. Each seismometer across rural Newfoundland has been adopted by a private citizen 'guardian' watching over it. The goal is to use this seismic data to develop a detailed deep crustal map of the island to identify important through-going faults, all to better understand the deep structure of the island.

Human Biosciences

Name change is official. They are HuBi
Kyle Warren (undergrad in Katie Wilson's group) was featured in the Picture Us 2025 Gallery.

Mathematics and Statistics

Mathematics and Statistics team came in second place at the Science Atlantic Math Competition this year. The top 3 teams were:
1st Place: Irina Xie and James Peterson (UNB)
2nd Place: Gavin Hull and Eric Goulding (MUN)
3rd Place: Leah Wilson and Phyllis O'Neill (SMU)
This is the 10th consecutive competition in which they placed first or second, and the 15th consecutive in which they placed in the top three.

Ocean Sciences

The Department of Ocean Sciences' graduate student society (OSGSA) proudly organized and hosted its first Annual Ocean Sciences Conference on 14 November 2025. The event, originally scheduled to be hosted at the Ocean Science Centre, was instead held on main campus to accommodate a larger than

expected audience! It was a great success, and the students and department are looking forward to hosting the 2nd edition in 2026.

Almost all DOS faculty have successfully completed field seasons and/or engaged in productive research collaborations with Indigenous peoples and communities across Newfoundland and Labrador or abroad.

Physics and Physical Oceanography

Teaching: Driven by student interest in job opportunities that were raised through the departmental review and the Academic Unit Planning process that was completed last year, the department have developed a co-op stream to the department's program offerings. This program option will provide physics students with a clear career pathway.

Research: The department brought in $500k in new research funding throughout the year; notably all three new faculty members received NSERC funding and, Dr. LeBlanc received a large NRC award in support of a quantum computing initiative.

Service: The department hosted the Atlantic Undergraduate Physics conference and, building on the strength of that regional undergraduate conference, they submitted a bid and were successful in being chosen as the site for the 2027 Canadian Association of Physics conference.

Psychology

On Halloween, PsyCentral organized a Trick or Treat event where students dressed up and collected snacks for Psyc Snacks. This is an initiative that we started last year in response to findings from "Food for Thought: Mental Health, Psychological Well-Being, Social Engagement and Campus Service Utilization of Students Experiencing Food Insecurity at a Large Atlantic Canadian University" by Dr. Hesson and Dr. Fowler. Their research revealed a concerning increase in food insecurity at the university — rising from 39.9% to 46.6% since 2015/2016. PsycSnacks was created to provide students with easy access to food in a welcoming, stigma-free environment. Anyone — students, faculty, and staff — can help themselves to snacks, heat up their lunch, or grab a tea or coffee. (And if anyone at Faculty Council would like to donate granola bars, fruit cups, yogurt, cheese sticks, etc., we would welcome any donations. Just drop them off to SN3071 or SN2065.)

FSC 3140 Questions

There was an inquiry regarding updates to the baseline budget and the budget for TAs. The Dean noted that, under the new budget model, changes are anticipated. Given the ongoing budget situation, we are continuing to evaluate various budget models and scenarios. We will keep you informed as more information becomes available.

FSC 3141 Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 1:54 p.m.