A meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science was held on Wednesday, December 7, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. in room C-2004.

**FSC 2476**

**Present**

**Biochemistry**
Berry, M.  Booth, V.

**Biology**
Jones, I.  Purchase, C.  Roncal, J.  Staveley, B.

**Chemistry**
Bottaro, C.  Flinn, C.  Fridgen, T.  Katz, M.  Kerton, F.  Kozak, C.

**Computer Science**
Bungay, S.  Penã-Castillo, L.

**Earth Sciences**
Hanchar, J.

**Mathematics & Statistics**

**Ocean Sciences**
Fletcher, G.  Mercier, A.

**Physics & Physical Oceanography**
Evstigneev, M.  Morrow, M.  Munroe, J.  Plumer, M.

**Psychology**
Thorpe, C.
FSC 2477  Regrets
        Xili Duan       Danine Farquharson

FSC 2478  Adoption of Minutes
Moved: Minutes of the November 16, 2016, meeting be adopted
       (Sullivan/Loredo-Osti). Carried. Three absentions.

FSC 2479  Business Arising
There were two items tabled at the November meeting and motioned for approval
        at this meeting as follows:
        a. Moved: Department of Chemistry, calendar changes, change in prerequisite
            for CHEM 2400 and housekeeping in CHEM 2400, 2401, and 2440
            (Sullivan/Fridgen). Carried.
        b. Moved: Department of Computer Science, calendar change, crosslisting of
            COMP 6931 and CMSC 6910. Changes noted on the calendar entry for
            Scientific Computing, which accompanied the paperwork for the crosslisting
            of the courses, incorporated changes made in 2015 to the Computer Science
            course names and numbers (Loredo-Osti/Bungay). Carried.

FSC 2480  Correspondence: None
FSC 2481 Reports of Standing Committees:

A. Undergraduate Studies Committee:
   Report presented by Shannon Sullivan, Chair, Undergraduate Studies Committee
   a. **Moved:** Department of Physics & Physical Oceanography, calendar change, PHYS 3800 (Sullivan/Plumer). **Carried.**
   b. Department of Earth Sciences, calendar changes, four separate motions. **Moved:** Require a minimum grade of 55% in EASC 1000 and EASC 1002 for all Earth Sciences courses that have these courses as prerequisites (Sullivan/Hanchar). **Carried.**
   **Moved:** Add PHYS 2820 to the prerequisite listing for EASC 4179 (Sullivan/Morrill). **Carried.**
   **Moved:** Replace CHEM 1010 and CHEM 1011 by CHEM 1050 and CHEM 1051, respectively, in existing Earth Sciences degree requirements and course prerequisites (Sullivan/Morrill). **Carried.**
   **Moved:** Revise course description of EASC 2916 and include a credit restriction and minor wording changes (Sullivan/Morrill). **Carried.**
   c. **Moved:** Department of Mathematics & Statistics, calendar changes, MATH 3000 (Sullivan/Radford). **Carried.**
   d. **Moved:** Department of Mathematics & Statistics, proposal for new course, MATH 109A/B (Sullivan/Radford). **Carried.**
   e. **Moved:** Faculty of Science, proposal for joint Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Arts degree program (Sullivan/Foster). **Carried.**
   f. Department of Computer Science, three separate motions. **Moved:** Proposals for thirteen new courses (Sullivan/Bungay). **Carried.**
   **Moved:** Proposal for new major in Smart Systems (Sullivan/Bungay). **Carried.**
   **Moved:** Proposal for new major in Visual Computing & Games (Sullivan/Bungay). **Carried.**
   g. **Moved:** Department of Biology, calendar changes (Sullivan/Jones). **Carried.**
   h. **Moved:** Department of Ocean Sciences, calendar changes, amendment to the prerequisite for OCSC 2000 (Sullivan/Mercier). **Carried.**
   i. **Moved:** Department of Ocean Sciences, calendar changes, amendment to the minor program in Sustainable Aquaculture and Fisheries Ecology (Sullivan/Mercier). **Carried.**
   j. **Moved:** Department of Earth Sciences, proposal for a new joint major program in Marine Biology (Sullivan/Mercier). **Carried.**

B. Graduate Studies Committee:
   Report presented by J.C. Loredo-Osti, Chair, Graduate Studies Committee
   a. **Moved:** Department of Earth Sciences, proposal for new course, EASC 6801, Palaeobiology of Early Animal Life (Loredo-Osti/Hanchar). **Carried.**
b. Department of Earth Sciences, special topics course, EASC 6917, Methods for Locating and Re-Locating Microseismic Events, presented to Council for information only.

C. Nominating Committee: None
D. Library Committee: None

FSC 2482 Response to the Committee on Elections and Committees Regarding Composition of Senate
Feedback was requested from the departments in the Faculty of Science on the composition of Senate. From the scenarios provided by the Committee on Elections and Committees, the general response from departments was to either remain with the existing allocation of eight seats or adopt Scenario 1 which would reduce the number of seats by Science faculty to seven. The proposed motion by Dr. Abrahams as a response to the Committee on Elections and Committees was: The Faculty of Science prefers senate representation approximate proportional representation and that other mechanisms be pursued to fill vacant senate seats. For that reason, our preference for the distribution of senate seats is to retain the existing allocation, or scenario 1 (Abrahams/Foster). Carried. General discussion ensued on the number of seats that the Science Faculty has and in comparison to other units on campus.

FSC 2483 Reports of Chair in Teaching & Learning and Embedded Teaching Consultant:
There was no report from the Chair in Teaching & Learning.

Report by Amy Todd, Embedded Teaching Consultant.
A new subset of the Faculty of Science webpage will be launched next week highlighting teaching in the Faculty of Science. The new teaching component will allow us space to showcase teaching within our faculty, including ongoing projects and award recipients. This component will be echoed down within the departmental webpages, where departments are encouraged to highlight excellence around teaching and learning that is occurring within their own departments.

FSC 2484 Reports of Delegates from Other Councils: None

FSC 2485 Report of the Dean
Presented by Mark Abrahams, Dean.

Much of the Dean’s time has been spent providing support to Memorial’s Ocean Frontier Institute and hiring permanent staff for that facility. One offer has been made, and announcements will be made once we have final decisions. It is expected that permanent staff will be in place for January 1, 2017.
A delegation from the Department of Computer Science and the Dean met with the Minister of Education, Dale Kirby, to discuss what we could do to promote computer literacy within the K-12 school system. The meeting was very positive, and the Department of Computer Science will now work with the task force, Chaired by Alice Collins, on substantive actions to assist the Department of Education.

Dr. Gosine, in his role as VPR Pro Tempore, will be seeking to further decentralize grant applications. This has been successfully done for NSERC Discovery Grants. Dr. Gosine plans to follow a similar approach with Research Tools and Instrument Grants and potentially also student awards. It was asked if additional resources would be required. It was noted that downloading RTI grant applications would reduce the workload as much of the work is done prior to submission to RGCS. Downloading university student research awards to the Faculty level will enable the Dean’s Office to more easily make decisions on faculty student awards in a timely manner. The Dean was asked whether allocations of awards and grants would be proportional to the academic unit’s share of tri-agency awards. His understanding was that this would be the case.

Planning for the retendering process for the Core Sciences Facility has been proceeding intensively for the last five months, and the tender should have gone out earlier this week to be awarded early in the new year.

This will be the last Science Council meeting for Dr. Abrahams for some time as he moves over to the Interim AVPR role. Dr. Mary Courage will be Acting Dean of Science. However, Dr. Abrahams will continue to be involved in the work of the Faculty of Science including the ongoing reviews of the Bonne Bay Marine Station and the Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs. He will also continue to develop Chairs associated with the Skinner Foundation as well as fundraising for the Core Sciences Facility. As AVPR, Dr. Abrahams will also remain on the Steering Committee for the Core Sciences Facility and the Executive Committee for the Ocean Frontier Institute.

Dr. Abrahams wished everyone a safe and happy holiday and looks forward to seeing everyone in the New Year.

FSC 2486 Question Period: None

FSC 2487 Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.