FACULTY OF SCIENCE
FACULTY COUNCIL OF SCIENCE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF FEBRUARY 17, 2016

A meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science was held on Wednesday, February 17, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. in room C-2045.

FSC 2407 Present
Biochemistry
Berry, M. Mulligan, M.

Biology
Leroux, S.

Chemistry
Fridgen, T. Kerton, F. Kozak, C.

Computer Science
Banzhaf, W. Bungay, S. Gong, M. Zuberek, W.

Earth Sciences
Hanchar, J.

Mathematics & Statistics
Dyer, D. Loredo-Osti, J. Merkli, M. Sullivan, S.

Ocean Sciences
Fletcher, G.

Physics & Physical Oceanography
Cumoe, S. Lagowski, J. Morrow, M. Munroe, J. Plumer, M.
Saika-Voivod, I. Yethiraj, A.

Psychology
Thorpe, C.

Dean of Science Office
Abrahams, M. Foss, K. Foster, A. Mackenzie, T.
Rideout, J. Zedel, L.

Economics
Waples, J.
DELOTS
Todd, A.

Arts
Finnis, J.

Registrar’s Office
Burry, J.

School of Music
Cook, N.

Marine Institute
Westcott, J.

Undergraduate Students
Snow, Z.

FSC 2408 Regrets
None

FSC 2409 Adoption of Minutes
Moved: Minutes of the January 20, 2016, meeting be adopted (Sullivan/Fletcher). Carried. Two abstentions.

FSC 2410 Business Arising: None

FSC 2411 Correspondence
Shannon Sullivan, Chair, Undergraduate Studies Committee, described the five recommendations from Senate to the timelines for readmission appeals and retroactive drops and withdrawals. He also outlined the response being proposed from the Undergraduate Studies Committee. Moved: The response from the Undergraduate Studies Committee to the review and subsequent recommendations for changes to the timelines for readmission appeals and retroactive drops and withdrawals be adopted as outlined (Sullivan/Foster). Carried.

FSC 2412 Reports of Standing Committees:

A. Undergraduate Studies Committee
Report presented by Shannon Sullivan, Chair, Undergraduate Studies Committee
a. Moved: Department of Physics and Physical Oceanography, calendar changes (Sullivan/Lagowski). Carried.

b. Moved: Department of Biochemistry, calendar changes (Sullivan/Berry). Carried.
B. Graduate Studies Committee: None
C. Nominating Committee: None
D. Library Committee: None

FSC 2413

Reports of Chair in Teaching & Learning and Embedded DELTS Teaching Consultant

Danny Dyer, Chair, Teaching & Learning for the Faculty of Science, reported that planning has begun for a Faculty of Science retreat centered around teaching. Also, he reminded council that there is a talk being broadcast today from the Grenfell campus by Hiromi Goto. As publicized on Newsline, DELTS is working with Dr. Marie Croll, Chair in Teaching and Learning for Grenfell Campus, to extend a session being held at Grenfell Campus to faculty, staff, and students on the St. John’s campus and at the Marine Institute. On Wednesday, February 17, from 3:30-5 p.m., Grenfell Campus will be host to Hiromi Goto, an author of many books for youth and adults. Ms. Goto’s session, titled “From the Matrices: A Feminist’s Stories”, will be focused on exploring gender through art, experiences, and critical thinking. The session will be extended through video conference from 3:30-5 p.m. to the St. John’s campus in ED-2018B and to the Marine Institute in the School of Ocean Technology Boardroom. The live event will take place in the Arts & Sciences Atrium at Grenfell Campus.

Amy Todd, Embedded Teaching Consultant with the Faculty of Science and DELTS, reminded everyone that the Teaching & Learning Framework competition is now open. Anyone interested can contact her with questions. Council was also reminded that the call has been issued for the President’s Teaching Award and faculty are encouraged to submit nominees. This encouragement was reiterated by the Dean.

FSC 2414

Faculty of Science Strategic Plan – Annual Approval

The Dean suggested a change of wording, removing, “We will continue to be challenged by our infrastructure, but a revitalized provincial economy means that it is reasonable to assume that significant new construction will take place within the next 10 years”, and replacing it with, “The new Science Building is currently under construction with an expected completed date of September 2019. This building will impact not only the departments that move to the new building, but also those that will occupy new or renovated space”. This change will be made immediately. It was also suggested by a member of council that more detail be added to two of the research strengths mentioned, that of materials science and biomedical science. Dr. Mark Berry will forward a draft to the Dean regarding biomedical science and Dr. Travis Frigen will forward a draft pertaining to materials science. Approval of the strategic plan will be tabled until the next meeting of council when these two additional changes have been made.

Clarification was sought about whether “our research agenda” referred to the research of individual faculty members. The Dean confirmed that it refers to the research agenda of the Faculty of Science and that individual research agendas should be examined in departmental strategic plans.
Report of the Dean
Presented by Mark Abrahams, Dean.

The Dean was recently contacted by DELTS to consider a joint proposal that would make it possible for students to do their entire first year with on-line courses. This would take advantage of existing Advanced Placement Courses and would require that we develop additional courses to meet our goal. The challenge will be the development of laboratory components but the benefit will be increased accessibility to MUN Science courses that may be of particular benefit to new students that must deal with the social and academic challenges of university life. This proposal is in the very early stages and has yet to be discussed by department Heads.

Representatives from Memorial are continuing to work with Dalhousie and UPEI on a joint Canada First Research Excellence Fund on Sustainable Oceans. This proposal has now been approved to go from a Letter of Intent to a Full Proposal with a due date of March 29. The selection board noted that the partnership between Dalhousie and MUN was a major strength of this proposal.

The Faculty of Science was very successful in the most recent competition for Canada Research Chairs. Two Tier 1 and two Tier 2 chairs have been allocated to the Faculty of Science.

As those that follow the news know, the Province is in a difficult financial situation and it is therefore reasonable to assume that this will have a significant impact on the university budget. The President addressed this issue yesterday afternoon and made clear that they are still working with the provincial government to determine how the university should respond. No specific information is yet available but it is reasonable to assume and plan for budget reductions.

During the Senate meeting, the President made clear that the construction of the Core Sciences Facility is fundamental to the mission of the university and that we are proceeding according to the original time frames that were established for this project. This includes major construction beginning this spring but we will now also be seeking financial support through a federal infrastructure program.

Question Period

Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 1:28 p.m.