A meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science was held on Wednesday, October 19, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. in room C-2045.

FACULTY OF SCIENCE  
FACULTY COUNCIL OF SCIENCE  
MINUTES OF MEETING OF OCTOBER 19, 2016

FSC 2454  Present
Biochemistry
Booth, V.  Mulligan, M.E.

Biology
Jones, I.  Leroux, S.  Roncal, J.  Staveley, B.

Chemistry
Botaro, C.  Kerton, F.  Kozak, C.

Computer Science
Batten, D.  Bungay, S.  Chen, P.  Wareham, T.

Earth Sciences
Hanchar, J.

Math & Stats
Loredo-Osti, J.  Merkli, M.  Sullivan, S.

Physics & Physical Oceanography
Curnoe, S.  Morrow, M.  Munroe, J.  Plumer, M.

Psychology
Courage, M.  Neath, I.

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

Geography
Catto, N.  Edinger, E.
FSC 2455  Regrets
Gubhinder, K.  Duan, X.  Dyer, D.  Farquharson, D.
Fletcher, G.  Dobbin-Williams, K.  Stordy, M.
Ismali, M.

FSC 2456  Adoption of Minutes
Moved: Minutes of the September 21, 2016, meeting be adopted
(Sullivan/Neath). One correction was noted to the September minutes. Calendar
changes for the 17/18 academic year were to be submitted to departmental
committees by the end of October to ensure they were included on the December
meeting of Faculty Council, not Senate. The Senate meeting is in February.
Carried. Two abstentions.

FSC 2457  Business Arising: None

FSC 2458  Correspondence:
Letter from Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies regarding Date for
Submission of Calendar Changes for 2017-2018. Shannon Sullivan reiterated that
the important date for Faculty Council is that of December 13, 2016, the date by
which all items must be received by the Secretary of the Committee in order to be
included in the calendar for 2017-2018. The December meeting of Faculty
Council will take place on December 7, 2016, in order to accommodate this
deadline.

FSC 2459  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 for 17 Physics courses (Sullivan/Plumer). **Carried.**

b. **Moved:** Department of Computer Science, calendar change, COMP 2718, Development Tools, Work Flows and Concepts (Sullivan/Wareham).

c. **Moved:** Department of Computer Science, proposal for new course, COMP 1401, Computing at the Movies (Sullivan/Wareham). **Carried.**

d. **Moved:** Department of Mathematics and Statistics, calendar change, program regulations (Sullivan/Loredo-Osti). **Carried.**

e. **Moved:** To not support the proposal in Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies re: Proposal for Blended Learning Definition (Sullivan/Booth). There was some discussion regarding why a glossary term in the calendar has been described so specifically. Reasons provided were to encourage instructors to adopt different learning formats and also to clarify course expectations for students. **Carried.**

**B. Graduate Studies Committee:**

Report presented by J.C. Loredo-Osti, Chair, Graduate Studies Committee

a. **Moved:** Department of Biochemistry, calendar changes including new courses (Loredo-Osti/Mulligan). **Carried. One abstention.**

b. **Moved:** Department of Psychology, proposal for new course, PSYC 6670, Interprofessional Education (Loredo-Osti/Neath). **Carried. Two abstentions.**

c. & e. **Moved:** Department of Computer Science, proposal for new course, COMP 6933, and Department of Mathematics and Statistics, proposal for new course, MATH 6203, both cross-listed, Nonlinear and Linear Optimization (Loredo-Osti/Wareham). **Carried. One abstention.**

d. **Moved:** Department of Computer Science, proposal for new course, COMP 6907, Data Mining Techniques and Methodologies (Loredo-Osti/Wareham). **Carried. Two abstentions.**

**C. Nominating Committee:**

a. **Moved:** Committee matrix be approved as presented (Foster/Sullivan). **Carried.**

**D. Library Committee:** None

**FSC 2460**

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

Report presented by Amy Todd, Embedded Teaching Consultant

The First Year Success Program will be presenting a report of their results from their first five years and future steps on Thursday, October 20, 2016. All are encouraged to attend.
The second brown bag lunch session on teaching in the Faculty of Science will be hosted by Biology on Thursday, October 27, 2016.

**FSC 2461 Reports of Delegates from Other Councils:**
Ed Kendall, representative from Medicine, commented on the issue of a potential reduction in the number of Senate seats for the Faculty of Science. He confirmed that the same issue was being faced by the Faculty of Medicine and the same concerns were being discussed. Faculty members are not in favor of the reduction.

**FSC 2462 Dean of Science Distinguished Teacher Award**
The Associate Dean (Undergraduate and Administration) presented information to Council about this newly established award. The award is open to any ASM in the Faculty of Science to recognize excellence in teaching. There will be a Call for Nominations in January with the selection being made in March of 2017. The award is meant to be a precursor for other awards such as the President’s Awards for Teaching and external awards for teaching. It is hoped that the award will contribute to overall teaching excellence in the Faculty of Science.

**FSC 2463 Report of the Dean**
Presented by Mark Abrahams, Dean.

The Dean talked about how we were all saddened by the sudden death of our VPR, Dr. Richard Marceau, in September. In addition to being a fine gentleman and a valued colleague, Dr. Marceau was an enthusiastic promoter of our research program and particularly proud of our accomplishment in the Canada First competition. His death has left a big hole within Memorial University, and the administration of the Canada First grant. Dr. Gosine has assumed the role of Interim VPR until the search for a new VPR is complete.

In addition to the loss of Dr. Marceau, another challenge facing the Canada First grant is space. The proposal will fund the creation of an Ocean Frontier Institute (OFI) within the Core Science Facility, but due to the tenders coming in beyond budget, the retendering process will delay opening by approximately one year. For that reason, the Dean is developing space for a temporary Ocean Frontier Institute. To do so, he has traded space in Coughlan College with the Faculty of Engineering in order to create space for the Department of Computer Science in the Engineering building. This will allow four offices in the Earth Science Department to be vacated that will become the temporary administrative offices for the OFI. He has also met with the Department of Earth Sciences to discuss the removal of surplus material to create high bay laboratory space that will function as a research space for OFI. Work has begun on this, and it is hoped that the administrative offices will be operational in the coming weeks or months. The laboratory space should be operational early in the new year.
As reported at our last Council meeting, there is a proposal for a change in representation on senate that will diminish the level of representation for large academic units and increase representation for small units. Vacant senate seats that are assigned to large academic units, often making it difficult for senate to meet quorum, are driving this change. Since that time, the Dean asked department heads to raise this issue and seek volunteers to fill those seats and he is pleased to report that the Faculty of Science will have all its seats filled for this term. The Dean intends to use that fact to argue against the change in representation in senate and to emphasize how important it is for faculty to be engaged in university issues.

The Dean has agreed to undertake an academic review of the interdisciplinary graduate programs within the Faculty of Science. It is not only important to review the academic content of these programs, but also to get clarity on the assignment of teaching resources and student support to these. It is hoped the review can be completed during this academic year.

Finally, a reminder that Science Fall convocation will take place October 20, 2016, at 3 pm in the Arts & Culture Centre. The Dean encouraged Council members to make time to celebrate the accomplishments of our graduating students, and Dr. Edgar Goodaire, who is being awarded professor emeritus status.

**FSC 2464 Question Period**
Shannon Sullivan raised the issue of communications with the Blunden Centre. Last winter, they moved to a temporary method of communicating with instructors via email which has proven to be onerous for instructors. There is often a delay receiving forms requesting separate testing, sometimes after the testing is completed. There was much discussion regarding possible reasons for the delayed communications. The Associate Dean (Undergraduate and Administration) will investigate the issue.

It was also noted that Sheila Singleton, the University Registrar, has announced her retirement. It will be a great loss of knowledge and experience in the university community.

**FSC 2465 Adjournment**
The meeting adjourned at 1:43 p.m.