A meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science was held on Wednesday, September 21, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. in room C-2045.

FSC 2442  Present

Biochemistry
Booth, V.  Mulligan, M.E.

Chemistry
Fridgen, T.

Computer Science
Byrne, R.

Mathematics & Statistics
D. Dyer  Haynes, R.  Loredo-Osti, J.C.  Radford, C.  Sullivan, S.

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

Psychology
Neath, I.

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

Economics
Kundhi, G.

Geography
Catto, N.  Finnis, J.

CITL
Todd, A.
FSC 2443  Regrets
Karen Dobbin-Williams    Collins Onodenalore
Garth Fletcher         Mary Stordy

FSC 2444  Adoption of Minutes
Moved:  Minutes of the April 27, 2016, meeting be adopted (Sullivan/Neath).
Carried.  Two abstentions.

FSC 2445  Business Arising:  None

FSC 2446  Correspondence:
Representatives from other academic councils were welcomed by the Dean and invited to introduce themselves.

FSC 2447  Reports of Standing Committees:
A.  Undergraduate Studies Committee:
Shannon Sullivan, Chair, Undergraduate Studies Committee, reminded members of Faculty Council that calendar changes for the 17/18 academic year should be presented to departmental committees by the end of October to ensure they are included on the December agenda of Senate.
He also advised that he and Andy Foster (Associate Dean, Undergraduate and Administration) are drafting a revision of the Calendar section on undergraduate degree regulations for the Faculty of Science. The current section contains inconsistencies, obsolete language, and lack of clarity that require correction. The draft will be circulated when complete.

B.  Graduate Studies Committee:
Report presented by J.C. Loredo-Osti, Chair, Graduate Studies Committee. He reminded members that calendar changes for graduate
programs should be presented to departmental committees earlier than undergraduate programs since they need to be included on the October agenda of Faculty Council to ensure they are approved for the 17/18 calendar.

a. Department of Computer Science, special topics course, COMP 6917, Complex Networks, presented to Faculty Council for information only.

b. Department of Earth Sciences, special topics course, EASC 6930, Seafloor Hydrothermal Processes, presented to Faculty Council for information only.

c. Department of Psychology, special topics course, PSYC 6116, Human Depth Perception: Normal and Abnormal Development, presented to Faculty Council for information only.

C. Nominating Committee:

a. Moved: Committee matrix be approved as presented with approval of completed matrix to be sought at the October meeting of Faculty Council (Foster/Sullivan). Carried.

D. Library Committee: None

FSC 2448 Reports of Chair in Teaching & Learning and Embedded DELTS Teaching Consultant:

Report presented by Amy Todd, Embedded Teaching Consultant, and Danny Dyer, Chair in Teaching and Learning

Faculty of Science Brown Bag Sessions are being introduced and will focus on fostering a teaching community in the faculty. The aim is to maintain an open, flexible environment with discussions that are community led. The first session will be September 27, 2016, hosted by speakers from Psychology and Mathematics and Statistics who will briefly discuss their department specific writing courses. Future sessions will occur approximately once a month and will be hosted within our various departments.

The Faculty of Science had success in the Teaching and Learning Framework competition. Little detail was provided here at the Dean elaborated on this point in his report.

There are new professional development opportunities on campus this Fall, mainly the re-emergence of a TA training program offered in October by SGS and CITL. Students from the Faculty of Science are registered for nearly half of the seats available. Also, the Program in Graduate Supervision offered by SGS and CITL has now moved out of the pilot stage and is offered this semester starting October 7th.

The Embedded Teaching Consultant will be contacting Department Heads again this Fall to set up meetings with the purpose of revisiting her role in their department and the services that can be offered, including, but not limited to, program development and curriculum mapping, specialized sessions for their
faculty and instructional staff, aiding in course re-design, and general instructional troubleshooting for their faculty and staff.

FSC 2449  Reports of Delegates from Other Councils:
Report presented by Alison Ambi, representative from the Library Council.

Council was reminded that feedback is required by October 3, 2016, about the Taylor & Francis journals. The Library is not aware yet of the amount of money it will have to save but decisions will have to be made on which journals will be maintained and input for these decisions is critical. It is hoped that the Faculty of Science representative to the Library Council will soon be determined so that a meeting can be arranged in the near future. The Associate Dean (Undergraduate and Administration) confirmed that the first meeting of the Library Committee is being scheduled and the representative should be appointed within a week.

FSC 2450  Co-op Education Representation on Senate
Presented by the Dean.

The Dean sought a motion to recommend alteration of Senate bylaws so that Academic Staff Members in Co-operative Education (ASM-CEs) could be considered eligible to be elected as Senate representatives for the Faculty of Science (Fridgen/Newhook). Discussion included whether there were historical reasons for having tenured vs. permanent faculty as members of Senate, whether ASM-CEs should be granted a voice on Senate through Co-operative Education or should be eligible to be voted for a seat on Senate through their Faculty or School, and the fact that decisions have been made in the past that ASM-CEs should have been involved with. Carried. Two Opposed. Four Abstentions.

FSC 2451  Report of the Dean
Presented by Mark Abrahams, Dean.

The Dean welcomed everyone back to Science council and the beginning of the 2016-2017 academic year. He particularly welcomed new faculty and student representatives to Science council and looks forward to working with them through this upcoming academic year.

Much has happened since the last meeting. At the last meeting the Dean advised Science Council that difficult financial times were ahead. This will likely continue for the remainder of his term as Dean. Difficult decisions had to be made but were done so to insure the quality of a Memorial University Science degree is maintained and enhanced. There were cuts to a number of areas but perhaps the most obvious was the closure of the Mathematics Learning Centre. The goal of this Centre was to assist students in the successful completion of Mathematics 1090 by having students successfully complete three non-credit foundation courses prior to attempting Math 1090. Those same students will now be provided with a modified form of Math 1090 that is taught over two semesters,
rather that within a single academic term. The Dean appreciates the efforts of the Faculty in the Mathematics & Statistics Department for developing and implementing this course.

Other challenges faced were all tenders received for the major construction component came in significantly beyond estimates provided by cost consultants, as well as independent assessments of the tender. As the building will not be pursued at any cost, the tender is being revised with the goal of having it come back within budget. It means that the building will have some changes in building material and mechanical systems but should still meet requirements. It will also mean a delay in when the building will open.

Senate is looking at a proposal to change the level of representation for academic units, driven by the establishment of three new deans at the Grenfell campus. Currently, the Faculty of Science is represented by 9 of the 50 senate appointments, which is the same as the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences. The new proposal would reduce Science representation to six senators, and provide no less than two senators to smaller units. The Dean feels that is a dramatic under representation of the Faculty of Science, but is a difficult argument to make when the Faculty consistently fails to fill the senate positions that are currently allocated.

Lastly, Jan Hopkins decided to retire as the Faculty of Science Grants Facilitation Officer as of September 16, 2016. Those that have worked with Jan know her intense dedication and commitment to work on their behalf, and the Dean would like to extend thanks on everyone’s behalf and wish her all the best in the next phase of her life.

Despite these issues, it is the Dean’s belief that the future for the Faculty of Science is very bright. Reasons for this optimism are that the Federal Government has recognized the importance of the construction of the Core Science Facility and they are committing nearly $100M in funding towards its construction. They have also committed partial support for the construction of a new Animal Care facility. Both are critically important as we take first steps in renewing research infrastructure.

The Faculty was also very successful in the Teaching Learning Framework Competition. Both unit applications led by Michael Katz from Chemistry and Rick Goulding from Physics were successful. The Faculty of Science also participated in eight collaborative projects of which five were funded. University wide, 37 applications were submitted of which 14 were funded. The Dean thanks all involved who took the time to submit these applications as it speaks to their passion and enthusiasm about further improving the academic environment for students.
Finally, the Canada First Research Excellence Fund that was developed by Memorial, Dalhousie and UPEI was successful, and spectacularly so. The proposal received the largest award in this competition, $93.7M in federal funding plus $133M in partner support. There are a couple of reasons why this is so important. First, it is validation by an international expert panel that what we do as an institution in the area of ocean studies is world class. It also demonstrated that appropriately implemented, the funding provided by this opportunity can and should make us world leading. It proved that we can work effectively and constructively with our partners in Atlantic Canada to achieve our shared vision. And, it also affirmed that there should be no limits to what we dare to achieve.

FSC 2452  Question Period

FSC 2453  Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:41 p.m.