



Faculty of Science

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**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
FACULTY COUNCIL OF SCIENCE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF APRIL 19, 2017**

A meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science was held on Wednesday, April 19, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. in room C-2045.

FSC 2512

Present

Biochemistry

Berry, M. Booth, V. Mulligan, M.

Biology

Jones, I.

Chemistry

Fridgen, T. Kerton, F. Kozak, C. Warburton, P.

Earth Sciences

Hurich, C. Morrill, P.

Mathematics & Statistics

Abarin, T. Booth, I. Dyer, D. Radford, C. Sullivan, S.

Physics & Physical Oceanography

Evstigneev, M. Plumer, M.

Psychology

Day, M. Neath, I.

Dean of Science Office

Barac, R. Courage, M. Foss, K. Foster, A. Harding, S.
Jackson, G. Mackenzie, T. Zedel, L.

CITL

Todd, A.

Library

Ambi, A.

Education

Stordy, M.

Registrar's Office

Burry, J.

FSC 2513 **Regrets**
Xili Duan

FSC 2514 **Adoption of Minutes**
It was **moved** by Shannon Sullivan, **seconded** by Martin Mulligan, that the minutes be approved as distributed.

CARRIED.

FSC 2515 **Business Arising:** None

FSC 2516 **Correspondence:** None

FSC 2517 **Reports of Standing Committees:**

A. Undergraduate Studies Committee:

Shannon Sullivan, Chair, Committee on Undergraduate Studies, presented recommended changes as follows:

a) It was **moved** by Shannon Sullivan, **seconded** by Dr. Charles Hurich, that the change to Earth Sciences Department course description of EASC3610 and change to title and course description of EASC4620 be accepted as presented.

CARRIED.

b) It was **moved** by Shannon Sullivan, **seconded** by Dr. Martin Plumer, that the changes to the requirements for the Major in Physics be accepted as presented.

CARRIED.

c) It was **moved** by Shannon Sullivan, **seconded** by Dr. Martin Plumer, that the changes to the requirements for the Honours in Physics be accepted as presented.

CARRIED.

d) It was **moved** by Shannon Sullivan, **seconded** by Dr. Martin Plumer, that the proposal from the Department of Physics for new Major and Honours programs in Ocean Physics be accepted as presented.

CARRIED.

Shannon Sullivan reminded council members of the special meeting of Senate on Monday, April 24, 2017, with a Town Hall meeting to follow later in April.

B. Graduate Studies Committee: None

C. Nominating Committee: None

D. Library Committee:

Dr. Mykhaylo Evstigneev informed Council that the Library is continuing to work towards optimizing expenditures. Similar to the previous process for the Taylor and Frances journals, they are now reviewing the Sage journal package. A request for feedback from faculty, instructors, and students will be forthcoming.

FSC 2518 Reports of Chair in Teaching & Learning and Teaching Consultant:

Dr. Danny Dyer, Chair in Teaching & Learning, spoke about the Transformational Teaching and Learning Day on April 27, 2017. The event will host astronomer David Helfand as the special guest lecturer. Registration is limited, and pre-registration is encouraged.

Dr. Amy Todd, Teaching Consultant, stated that the Teaching and Learning Framework review draft report is posted online and the committee is accepting feedback.

FSC 2519 Reports of Delegates from Other Councils: None

FSC 2520 Yaffle Presentation

Jennifer Adams and John Duff from the Office of Public Engagement demonstrated the “New Yaffle” that integrated feedback received from users. Please contact their office for further information.

FSC 2521 Report of the Dean
Presented by Mary Courage, Interim Dean of Science.

NSERC Discovery Grants

Out of 36 NSERC Discovery Grant applications submitted from the Faculty of Science, 28 were awarded - a success rate of 78%. There was a 61% success rate for Memorial overall. In Science, four applications were re-awarded and eight awards went to new faculty. The overall Faculty of Science success rate last year was 66%.

Budget

A pre-budget consultation took place on April 10. The initial budget reduction over a three-year period for the Faculty of Science totaled \$1.3M – approximately \$544K in 2017-2018, \$360K in 2018-2019, and \$392K in 2019-2020. These reductions were in addition to the reduction of about \$357K in 2016-2017. One

option to cover the current reductions was to make further cuts to the salary portion of the budget as over 97% of the budget goes towards salary and as the operating portion of the budget is already at a minimum. Faculty Relations confirmed that this could only be done through expiring contracts and reducing per-course instructors. This was deemed to be impractical and would not generate enough savings to cover the required reduction. In consultation with Heads, it was decided that we would relinquish five tenure-track faculty positions out of the 14 that were available across all departments. These five positions had been previously approved but not filled due to lack of space and startup funds. The nine remaining positions have been submitted to the Provost for approval with a total request of \$322K in startup funding. The total savings from these five positions is about \$983K and will cover the reductions for 2017-2018 and 2018-2019. For 2019-2020, additional efficiencies will mean giving up another faculty position and several staff positions. A major implication from these reductions will be fewer faculty members. This could impact enrollment such that there would be larger classes, fewer seminar courses, and the reduced capacity to innovate new courses that have the potential to attract new students. In addition, certain faculty members may feel forced to leave Memorial.

It was noted that the Faculty of Science has experienced additional budgetary constraints in recent years as certain operational costs have been offloaded to the Faculty from other support units within the university.

Finally, the 2017 provincial government budget included an additional \$6.5M cut to the MUN budget. Discussions are ongoing on how to deal with this further reduction and details are forthcoming. A proposal has been submitted to Senate for the April 24 meeting. Once this proposal has been passed by Senate, it will go forward to the Board of Regents for their next meeting scheduled to take place on May 11.

Core Sciences Facility (CSF)

Government is considering a tender for the CSF, and preliminary reports indicate that the discussions are looking positive. Once a tender has been approved, construction will begin as soon as possible.

FSC 2522

Question Period

With regards to changes to the administration of Tri-Agency Funds, questions were raised regarding the effective date for the changes to occur. Also, issues regarding the transferring of graduate students' stipends from one grant to another were raised as well as its potential impact on graduate students.

FSC 2523

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.