



Faculty of Science

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**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
FACULTY COUNCIL OF SCIENCE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF JANUARY 18, 2017**

A meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science was held on Wednesday, January 18, 2017, at 1:00 p.m. in room C-2045.

FSC 2488

Present

Biochemistry

Berry, M. Mulligan, M.

Biology

Jones, I. Purchase, C. Staveley, B.

Chemistry

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

Computer Science

Shieh, J.

Mathematics & Statistics

Loredo-Osti, J.C. Radford, C. Sullivan, S.

Ocean Sciences

Fletcher, G.

Physics & Physical Oceanography

Curnoe, S. Munroe, J.

Psychology

Neath, I. Thorpe, C.

Dean of Science Office

Courage, M. Foss, K. Foster, A. Harding, S. Mackenzie, T.
Meruvia-Pastor, O. Rideout, J. Todd, A. Zedel, L.

Geography

Edinger, E.

Library

Ambi, A.

Faculty of Business

Clift, T.

School of Graduate Studies

Farquharson, D.

Graduate Students

Alloway, H.

Undergraduate Students

Lacey, K.

FSC 2489

Regrets

Karen Dobbin-Williams
Rebecca Matthews
Kris Poduska

Collins Onodenalore
Edward Kendall
Xili Duan

FSC 2490

Adoption of Minutes

Moved: Minutes of the December 7, 2016, meeting be adopted (Sullivan/Loredo-Osti). **Carried.**

FSC 2491

Business Arising: None

FSC 2492

Correspondence: None

FSC 2493

Reports of Standing Committees:

A. Undergraduate Studies Committee:

Report presented by Shannon Sullivan, Chair, Undergraduate Studies Committee

Although there were no items for approval there were several updates provided:

- a.** All items approved at the December meeting of Faculty Council have been approved by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies (SCUGS) and will now move along to be approved by Senate.
- b.** SCUGS also approved changes in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences for English courses offerings. First year English courses are being replaced with reformatted offerings. Programs within the Faculty of Science that require English courses will automatically be updated in the calendar with the new English course numbers and descriptions.
- c.** There are two projects underway within the Faculty of Science Undergraduate Studies Committee. One is to identify the critical

reading and writing requirements to replace the current English course requirements in the BSc programs. A proposal should be available in the near future. A second project is a revision of the general regulations for the Faculty of Science. Departments will receive a draft in the near future for their comments and suggestions.

d. Departments are reminded to begin work on calendar changes for the 2018/19 academic calendar.

B. Graduate Studies Committee:

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

a. **Moved:** Department of Chemistry, calendar changes (Loredo-Osti/Fridgen). **Carried.**

C. Nominating Committee: None

D. Library Committee: None

FSC 2494 Reports of Chair in Teaching & Learning and Embedded DELTS Teaching Consultant:

Report presented by Amy Todd, Embedded Teaching Consultant

The awards process and Teaching and Learning Fund cycle will begin soon. The call for President's Award nominations will be out in February. Also, information about the Dean's Awards will be circulated shortly. Departments are urged to nominate deserving people for these awards.

FSC 2495 Reports of Delegates from Other Councils: None

FSC 2496 Presentation by Gordon Deveau (NSERC) and Paula Clark (RDC):

Presentation was cancelled due to illness.

FSC 2497 Report of the Dean

Presented by Mary Courage, Interim Dean.

Mark Abrahams mentioned at a previous council meeting that Mary Wall was to receive a President's Award for Distinguished Service and offered her our sincere congratulations. The Interim Dean also acknowledged several other recipients of President's Awards and offered them congratulations as well. These are:

Danny Dyer, Mathematics & Statistics – Distinguished Teaching Award
Brent Snook, Psychology – Outstanding Graduate and Postgraduate Supervision
Chris Rowley, Chemistry – President's Award for Outstanding Research

The time has come to submit nominations for the Dean of Science Awards: Distinguished Scholar, Distinguished Service, and Distinguished Teacher. Andy Foster, Associate Dean (Undergraduate and Administration) has emailed out the terms of reference and application procedures. Please identify faculty and staff in your respective departments who would be competitive for these awards. Faculty

Awards are helpful when these individuals are nominated for President's awards and other parallel national Awards.

FSC 2498 Question Period

Several items were discussed:

An enquiry was made about whether there were any updates about the new science building. The Interim Dean confirmed there was not but that a committee meeting was scheduled for later this week. Mark Abrahams, now Associate Vice-President (Research) *pro tempore*, will continue to sit on the committee and Mary Courage, Interim Dean, will also sit on the committee as an observer.

There was considerable discussion about the options that might be presented by FSCUGS regarding changes in English offerings for the Faculty of Science. One concern is that requiring first year students to take an English course limits their ability to take an extra Science course. An English course formatted specifically for Science students is being considered. Options will be shared with departments before final decisions are made.

There will be a meeting concerning the scheduling of final exams, prompted by the recent exam period in the Fall semester that was disrupted due to bad weather. Several large enrollment courses were scheduled near the end of the exam session resulting in the nearly impossible task of marking a large volume of exams in a very short time period. Many students had to defer exams to the beginning of the Winter semester causing difficulty for both students and faculty. It was stressed that other faculty should attend this meeting to lobby for large enrolment courses to have their final exams scheduled at the beginning of the exam period.

Another issue relating to rescheduled exams occurred in the previous academic year when students had to vacate residence by a particular date and therefore had to write their exam at an alternate location and were required to pay an invigilation fee. This situation was not created by the students and, therefore, they shouldn't have been burdened with this fee.

These scheduling issues will be discussed further at the next Department Heads meeting.

FSC 2499 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:33 p.m.