



Faculty of Science

Office of the Dean
St. John's, NL Canada A1B 3X7
Tel: 709 864 8154 Fax: 709 864 3316
deansci@mun.ca www.mun.ca/science

**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
FACULTY COUNCIL OF SCIENCE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF NOVEMBER 21, 2018**

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

FSC 2634

Present

Biochemistry

M. Berry, S. Harding, M. Mulligan

Biology

T. Chapman, B. Staveley

Chemistry

C. Bottaro, E. Merschrod

Computer Science

S. Bungay

Earth Sciences

E. Burden

Mathematics and Statistics

JC Loredano-Osti, D. Pike, S. Sullivan

Ocean Sciences

G. Fletcher

Physics & Physical Oceanography

K. Poduska, Curnoe, S., M. Morrow, K. Poduska

Psychology

C. Thorpe

Dean of Science Office

K. Foss, T. Fridgen, G. Jackson, T. Mackenzie, R. Newhook, L. Zedel

CITL
A. Todd

Registrar's Office
T. Edmunds

FSC 2635

Regrets
S. Mantyka

FSC 2636

Adoption of Minutes
Moved: Minutes of October 17, 2018, meeting be adopted (Sullivan/Fletcher).
Carried.

FSC 2637

Business Arising: None

FSC 2638

Correspondence: None

FSC 2639

Indigenous Research – Consent Requirements Presentation by Dr. Max Liboiron, Associate Vice-President (Indigenous Research)
Dr. Max Liboiron is presenting at all faculty councils regarding the requirement for consent from Indigenous groups to complete research. Currently, the Faculty of Science is the most compliant in getting permits and consents when needed. ROMEO will be updated to include a box to ensure consents and permits are collected when needed. This is not a new process, but it is being formalized. This will be instituted on July 1, 2019 and a memo will be distributed about the process on December 3, 2018. For additional information, there will be a FAQ on the Vice-President (Research) website.

FSC 2628

Reports of Standing Committees:

A. Undergraduate Studies Committee:

Shannon Sullivan, Chair, Undergraduate Studies Committee, reminded council members that the absolute deadline for calendar changes to FoSCUGS is November 23rd at 1:00pm, in order to make next year's calendar.

B. Nominating Committee: Travis Fridgen would like to receive comments on the draft constitution that was circulated. This will be brought to Science Faculty Council in the January 2019 meeting for a formal vote. The constitution is being rewritten to reflect current practices; the current constitution is outdated.

FSC 2629

MUNFA Negotiation Update

Dr. Mark Abrahams suggested that faculty members educate themselves on the issues before voting to strike, if it comes to that. If there is a strike, all faculty members are on strike. Crossing the picket line is permitted only for critical reasons. Such applications will have to be made to Faculty Relations as per the second last page of the MUNFA collective agreement.

In the event of a strike, faculty are not to provide work for the university so cannot come onto campus to keep a research program moving or to supervise students. As per the

collective agreement, a faculty member may be able to access their lab or office space if the experiment is at a critical stage and may be in jeopardy; the faculty member may be granted permission to sustain the research only, not to continue the research.

If the Union is in a strike position, it means that the faculty association can go on strike or the University can lock out the faculty members. The University and MUNFA have met to discuss strike protocols.

The Union is currently conducting information sessions for faculty members and will be visiting departments. Also note that a strike vote is not a ratification vote. It was questioned why the University removed the right of first refusal for teaching term appointments from the agreement. Dr. Abrahams explained that at that point in the negotiations they were presenting items as a package, and since MUNFA did not accept the package, MUNFA traded off some items in the package by adding some items in and removing others. It was a natural give and take with the desire to reach an agreement. A question was also raised whether it made any sense for MUNFA to not go on strike but the lecturers to go on strike. This question could not be answered.

Dr. Erika Merschrod wanted to register her disappointment with the last collective bargaining update issued by the university. She asked Dr. Abrahams to pass along her disappointment to the University Administration.

FSC 2630

Innovation Fund

Dr. Abrahams wanted to reiterate the information sent by email to departments regarding Research Infrastructure/CFI Innovation Fund competition. All departments and faculty members need to think about what is needed and submit a complete list, as it will be harder to add equipment and infrastructure to the list in the future. If the physical space is inadequate for the equipment, then include the infrastructure and renovations needed to support the equipment in the application. It is important to get this information to the VPR to ensure they understand the magnitude of the needs of the Faculty of Science. The deadline is December 3rd and please copy the Dean's office on your requests.

FSC 2631

Report of Teaching Consultant:

CITL is in the process of launching three Communities of Practice (CoP), along with support for the creation of additional communities in the future. These are replacing the former brown bag sessions, and will provide a better model for connecting faculty and instructors across the Faculty of Science departments for collaborative professional development, knowledge sharing, and development of teaching and learning practices in the Faculty. For more information you can refer to the website, or contact Amy (amy.todd@mun.ca). Also, a reminder that Amy is available to support any programming development, curricular development or program review occurring within the departments.

FSC 2632

Reports of Delegates from Other Councils: None

FSC 2633

Report of the Dean

Presented by Mark Abrahams, Dean of Science.

1. Convocation was held on October 18. I thank those faculty who joined the academic procession and note that this convocation marked a first for Memorial University, where the number of graduate students exceeded the number of undergraduate students.
2. The Voluntary Retirement Program has now moved through phase 4. In both phases 3 and 4 I refused to approve any staff positions for the program as doing so would mean we would lose those positions. This is understandably very upsetting for the staff involved but those I spoke to understood my decision, that the loss of their positions would significantly compromise the operations of their home departments.
3. I continue to work with the University's Building Working Group, that group tasked with implementing a plan to facilitate the closure of the old Science building. The group has now agreed that such a decision cannot be made in isolation of a campus master plan, meaning consideration needs to be given to all academic units with the goal of moving towards a campus organization that works for all.
4. As a reminder to all departments, I am happy to attend departmental meetings if invited. This Friday I will be meeting with the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

FSC 2634

Question Period:

The Dean provided an update on the VRP replacements. Initially, the Dean understood that there would be a 25% replacement rate, then he heard it would be 50%, and now he heard it may be higher than 50%. Our plan as the Faculty of Science remains the same; in order to meet the goals of the University, our faculty should remain its current size and until he is told there is a change in the University's plan, we are planning on staying the same size. However, we want to recruit the best faculty members, so until we have adequate startup funds to offer a competitive package to potential faculty members, we will not be able to initiate searches.

There is currently an external review being completed on the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Once this goes to the Dean for review and edits, the department will be able to respond to the action items. It was noted that infrastructure for the Department of Mathematics and Statistics is very poor, and the Dean reiterated that he will continue to lobby for a new building for the department during his remaining term, but cannot give any guarantees.

The campus master plan is being reviewed, and in the 2007 iteration, it mostly looked at green spaces and it never foresaw the Core Sciences building. Now, the Dean would like the master plan to take academic neighbourhoods into consideration. The Dean confirmed that there will be some shell space in the new Core Sciences building. Also, there are concerns regarding the potential demolition of the Science building that will result in a lack of lecture theatre space for the University and particularly for the Faculty of Science.

FSC 2635

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.