



Faculty of Science

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FACULTY OF SCIENCE FACULTY COUNCIL OF SCIENCE MINUTES OF MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 19, 2018

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

FSC 2612

Present

Biochemistry

Berry, M. Booth, V. Brunton, J. Harding, S. Mulligan, M.

Biology

Chapman, T. Staveley, B.

Chemistry

Bodwell, G. Merschrod, E. Flinn, C.

Computer Science

Bungay, S.

Earth Sciences

Layne, G.

Ocean Sciences

Fletcher, G.

Physics & Physical Oceanography

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

Dean of Science Office

Abrahams, M. Babichuk, N. Foss, K. Fridgen, T. Frizzell, L.
Jackson, G. Mackenzie, T. Zedel, L.

CITL

Todd, A.

Students

Mahmood, A. Saeed, M.

FSC 2613 **Regrets**
Mantyka, S. Sullivan, S.

FSC 2614 **Adoption of Minutes**
Moved: Minutes of May 16, 2018, meeting be adopted (Chapman/Fridgen).
Two Abstentions. Carried.

FSC 2615 **Business Arising: None**

FSC 2616 **Correspondence: None**

FSC 2617 **Reports of Standing Committees:**

A. **Graduate Studies Committee:**

Presented by Len Zedel, Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies.

- a.** Department of Mathematics and Statistics, special topics course, STAT 6506, Applied Event History Analysis, approved by the committee and presented to Faculty Council for information only.
- b.** Department of Earth Sciences, special topics courses, EASC 6907, Phase Equilibria Modelling in Metamorphic Petrology, and EASC 6954, Geochemical Proxies in Precambrian Sedimentary Systems, approved by the committee and presented to Faculty Council for information only.

Presented by Graham Layne, Deputy Head (Academic), Department of Earth Sciences.

- c. **Moved:**** Department of Earth Sciences, calendar changes to MSc program proposing the addition of a thesis defense in Geology and Geophysics (Layne/Berry).

The motion is **carried** assuming that the proposal is legal; if new information arises, the proposal will come back to council for approval.

One opposed. Two Abstentions.

- d. **Moved:**** Department of Earth Sciences, calendar changes to PhD program proposing changes to the comprehensive examination requirements in Geology and Geophysics. **Carried.** (Layne/Bodwell).
Two Abstentions.

Presented by Len Zedel, Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies.

- e.** Department of Psychology, special topics course, PSYC 6120, Special Topics in Health Psychology, approved by the committee and presented to Faculty Council for information only

B. **Nominating Committee:**

Faculty of Science Committee Matrix presented by Travis Fridgen.

Moved: Committee matrix be approved as presented (Fridgen/Zedel).
Carried. One Abstention.

C. Library Committee: None

FSC 2618 Report of Teaching Consultant:

Gavan Watson will start as new director of CITL in November. Notable that he comes from a background in Science, with a PhD in Science based education, and experience as Associate Director of the Teaching and Learning Centre at Western University.

The report from the CITL external review was released in September. CITL is aiming to respond to Provost by November 2018. Highlights that may impact the Faculty of Science include recommendations around reducing CITL administration of online courses to bring them in line with the practices of campus-based courses and reduce barriers to development. There are also recommendations for further educator supports (teaching and technical supports) embedded within faculties and departments.

The new Teaching and Learning Framework has been released (pending Senate approval). There were no major surprises, and includes the creation of a Senate Committee on Teaching and Learning, the Student Success Collaborative software, the Lead Semester, and the Indigenization Strategy. Notable is the continuation of the Innovation Funding Competition which many in Science have taken advantage of in the past. If the framework is approved, the funding competition is expected to take place over the Winter/Spring 2019 semesters. Expected allocation funds for the competition have not been announced.

FSC 2619 Reports of Delegates from Other Councils: None

FSC 2620 Report of the Dean

Presented by Mark Abrahams, Dean of Science.

1. On the morning of Saturday, September 15, a 20-year-old Faculty of Science student, Felix Marino, collapsed and died suddenly. Felix was the son of the former Head of Biology Paul Marino, and Joyce Marino, a Visiting Assistant Professor in the School of Pharmacy and Anatomy and Physiology Instructor. On behalf of Science Faculty Council, I wanted to offer them our condolences.
2. I want to offer my thanks to Dr. Mary Courage for stepping in as the interim Dean of Science while I was working in the Vice President (Research) office. She did a remarkable job and kept the Faculty of Science operating well through a difficult time.
3. Since I was asked to serve in the VPR office, the Board of Regents suspended my term as Dean. That means that my term has now been extended by 20 months so my term now expires in the spring of 2020.
4. Last night the Dean's office hosted the annual Faculty of Science Awards evening. It was very well attended and by all accounts very successful again.

Thanks go to Dawn Harvey, Melissa Strong, Kelly Foss and Gail Kenny for organizing this event.

5. The Faculty of Science now has two new grant facilitation officers. They are Nicole Babichuk and Lynn Frizzell.
6. Challenges that I am now addressing are replacement faculty and staff positions associated with the Voluntary Retirement Program. Twelve faculty and two staff have taken advantage of this program. What is not clear is what the replacement rate for these retirements will be. I have my first meeting with the Provost on Friday. While I am not expecting an answer on replacement rates, I do want to emphasize the importance of these positions to the aspirations, goals and missions of the Faculty of Science and the University.
7. I also continue to be engaged with bargaining with MUNFA on behalf of the university. You should know that we are currently bargaining with the assistance of a conciliator. While having the 3rd party involved is helpful, you should also know that this is a necessary precondition before MUNFA can place itself in a legal strike position. We have been bargaining 3 of the past 4 weeks and have made good progress on key issues. It is for that reason that the university is dismayed with some of the bargaining updates that have been provided by MUNFA. In response, the university has posted its own bargaining update at www.mun.ca/updates.php. I won't tell you what to think but do ask that you do your due diligence and ask questions to inform yourself.
8. As you should notice, good progress is being made on the Core Science Facility. The project is on budget and on schedule, with the expectation it be operational for September 2020.

FSC 2621

Question Period:

The faculty members welcomed Dr. Mark Abrahams back to his role as Dean, Faculty of Science.

FSC 2622

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.