



Faculty of Science

Office of the Dean
St. John's, NL Canada A1B 3X7
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deansci@mun.ca www.mun.ca/science

MEETING OF THE FACULTY COUNCIL OF THE FACULTY OF SCIENCE

A regular meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science will be held on Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at 1 p.m. in C-2045.

AGENDA

- 1. Regrets**
- 2. Adoption of the Minutes of September 18, 2019**
- 3. Business Arising from the Minutes**
- 4. Correspondence:**
- 5. Reports of Standing Committees:**
 - A. Undergraduate Studies Committee:** No business
 - B. Graduate Studies Committee:**
 - a.** Department of Physics and Physical Oceanography, calendar changes to PhD program (Paper 5.B.a., pages 6-13)
 - C. Library Committee:** None
- 6. Distinguished Emerging Scholar Award (Paper 6, pages 14-16)**
- 7. Reports of Delegates from Other Councils**
- 8. Report of the Dean**
- 9. Question Period**
- 10. Adjournment**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Abrahams".

Mark Abrahams, Ph.D.
Dean of Science



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**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
FACULTY COUNCIL OF SCIENCE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 18, 2019**

A meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science was held on Wednesday, September 18, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. in room C-2045.

FSC 2686 Present

Biochemistry

M. Berry, R. Bertolo, J. Brunton, S. Harding

Biology

T. Chapman, B. Staveley

Chemistry

C. Bottaro

Computer Science

E. Brown

Earth Sciences

G. Dunning

Mathematics & Statistics

I. Booth, C. Cigsar, D. Dyer, R. Haynes, J.C. Loredó-Osti, S. Mantyka, D. Pike, Y. Yilmaz

Physics & Physical Oceanography

S. Curnoe, M. Morrow, K. Poduska

Psychology

C. Thorpe, C. Walsh

Dean of Science Office

K. Foss, T. Fridgen, G. Jackson, L. Zedel

CITL

A. Todd

Staff

C. Deacon, A. Langille, B. Power, T. Stuckless

Graduate Students

A. Akerele, A. Alfosool, K. Hall, J. Lamarre, Y. Lim

Undergraduate Students

D. Cameron-McKenna, H. Elazab,

FSC 2687 Regrets
K. Fowler, S. Sullivan

FSC 2688 Item 7 in the Agenda will not be discussed today, but will be brought forward in a future meeting.

FSC 2689 Adoption of Minutes
Moved: Minutes of the May 15, 2019, meeting be adopted (Berry/Walsh). **Carried.**

FSC 2690 Business Arising:
The May 2019 minutes referenced that the University Building Committee was reviewing the Henrietta Harvey Building and a full recommendation of the committee will go to the Board of Regents during summer 2019. The committee is looking at new space for the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, as well as what to do with the Science building. It is investigating the possibility of tearing down three-quarters of the Science building and keeping the quarter with the larger lecture theatre. There is the possibility of a rebuild of the 3rd and 4th floors, which could be a location for the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. A feasibility study is being conducted which involves a class D estimate to determine the cost; it is hoped that the savings from the maintenance on the science building can be used to fund the construction of the project. This is just a study at this point and not a plan; however, the University working group is tasked with developing a plan for the Science building. This update is a less than satisfactory response for Ron Haynes.

The roof repairs of the Henrietta Harvey are happening in two phases: the first is the asbestos abatement and the second is the tender for the roof repair. Currently, the Dean's office is working with the Head of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics to find swing space for members of the department that must be relocated during the work. The proposed plan is to have the work completed in six phases, but if we can reduce the number of phases hopefully we can reduce the time of the project. The anticipated time for the asbestos abatement is approximately twelve weeks. FM will not do the roof repairs in the winter so the tender will not be issued until probably early winter so that the work can commence as early as possible in spring. Ron Haynes is concerned that FM may need to hire a consultant to prepare the tender, which could delay the project even further.

FSC 2691 Correspondence: None

FSC 2692

Reports of Standing Committees:

A. Undergraduate Studies Committee:

Presented by Travis Fridgen, Associate Dean (Administration and Undergraduate)

Calendar change deadlines for the 2020-2021 Calendar are fast approaching. Faculty Council will need to consider any changes from units in Science no later than its meeting on December 4th. The last Undergraduate Studies Committee meeting for which they can be on the agenda will, therefore, occur no later than November 22nd. Bearing in mind that Calendar changes require at least a 4-week consultation period, that means they should have the approval of the proposing Department by October 25th.

The Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies has now endorsed a revised Student Health Certificate (SHC) to replace the former Student Medical Certificate. It's now available on the Registrar's Office website. The SHC is intended to much more effectively capture student health information relevant to academic decision-making, without inappropriately infringing on student privacy. Calendar changes to formally require the SHC in cases where medical documentation is needed was approved by Senate in May and will appear in next year's Calendar. All departments and faculty members are strongly encouraged to begin directing students to use the SHC as of now.

B. Graduate Studies Committee:

Presented by Carolyn Walsh, Chair, Graduate Studies Committee

- a. Department of Computer Science, special topics course, COMP 6774, Data Visualization, approved by the committee and presented to faculty Council for information only.
- b. **Moved:** Department of Biochemistry, calendar changes, MSc Oral Defence, (Walsh/Berry). **One opposed. One abstention. Carried.**

C. Nominating Committee: None**D. Library Committee:** None**FSC 2693**

Moved: Travis Fridgen presented the Faculty Council Matrix. (Fridgen/Chapman).
Carried

FSC 2694**Report of the Dean**

Presented by Mark Abrahams, Dean

1. I am pleased to welcome you all back for the new academic year, and in particular I am pleased to welcome our new faculty and students.
2. On a personal note, I wanted to advise Science council that my term has been extended to the end of April 2021. The reason for the extension was that the provost did not want to undertake a search for a new dean of science while the presidential search is underway. It will also provide me with the additional time to see the construction and move into the Core Science Facility next year.

3. As I will be spending more time in this role than I had planned, I am hoping to once again visit with all academic departments during this academic year.
4. I also wanted to thank all those that participated in our annual Faculty of Science awards event that was held on Monday evening, and particularly those in my office that organized this event. Those of you that attended will know we have now outgrown the Bruneau centre and will be planning for a larger venue next year. I also want to congratulate again all our student award winners, and Drs. Goulding, Mercier and Haynes for their awards.
5. Continuing with celebrations, Fall convocation is scheduled for Thursday, October 17. B.Sc degrees will be awarded at 10 a.m., M.Sc.'s at 3 p.m., and Ph.D's and Psy.D's at 7:30 p.m. If you want to participate in the academic procession, please confirm your participation by October 9.
6. October 30 is the date that Gina Jackson and I will be working toward for the presentation of our budget and faculty complement. I will be working with heads to get updates of departmental academic staffing plans, as well as how we will operate with budgets that are continuing to decline. One area of particular focus is to address the costs associated with teaching our curriculum, and insuring the number of teaching assignments aligns with our budget.

FSC 2695 Question Period

David Pike recently visited with former students who are completing their graduate degree at another University. The students state that, while their education from MUN was great, they tell other students not to apply to MUN due to the state of the buildings. The Department of Mathematics and Statistics has had several leaks that have ruined computers and has stalled research.

Len Zedel reminded members of Council that MUN has a collaboration with St. FX (St. Francis Xavier) in Nova Scotia, that allows students with an MSc at St. FX to attend MUN to complete their PhD and collaborate with faculty from St. FX. These are good students and there is the potential for the students to receive funds from St. FX, as well as SGS, that is over and above the normal baseline funding.

FSC 2696 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.



Deputy Head (Graduate Studies)

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To: Gail Kenny, Dean of Science Office

From: Stephanie Curnoe, Professor and Deputy Head (Graduate Studies), Department of Physics and Physical Oceanography

Date: September 12, 2019

Re: Proposed calendar changes for Ph.D. degrees in the Department of Physics and Physical Oceanography

Rationale for proposed calendar changes

The proposed calendar changes include two substantial changes and several minor housekeeping changes.

Major changes

1. Ph. D. programs in "Atomics and Molecular Physics" and in "Condensed Matter Physics" are replaced by a program in "Physics".

This change reflects the evolution of the Department during the past twenty years. There are no students currently enrolled in the "Atomic and Molecular Physics" program and the last student in this program graduated more than ten years ago. Faculty are supervising students in areas which do not fall under the existing categories, such as biophysics or applied physics.

2. Course requirements for students who transfer from M.Sc. to Ph.D. degrees are added: these students will be required to complete a total of 15 credit hours (5 courses).

The current calendar entry does not include course requirements specifically for transfer students. Transfer students are therefore only required to take the same number of courses as other Ph.D. students, i.e. 3 courses. However, Departmental past practice required transfer students to complete 7 courses. (Usually this meant that 4 courses were taken at the start of a M.Sc. program plus 3 additional courses taken after transferring to the Ph.D. program.) Overall, very few students transferred from the M.Sc. to Ph.D. programs. Considering all of the above, and the fact that transfer students receive an extra year of funding, the Department has decided to fix the total number of courses taken by transfer students to a total of 5 courses, of which at least 4 are courses offered by our Department.

Minor changes

1. Unnecessary information at the beginning of the entry has been removed.
2. A sentence listing the Interdisciplinary Programs in which our Department participates has been added.
3. The course requirements for the Ph.D. degrees Physical Oceanography and in Physics are given in new separate entries.
4. The course requirements for Physical Oceanography now specify that at least two out of three of the required graduate courses be courses in Physical Oceanography.
5. The course requirements for Physics now specify that at least two out of three of the required graduate courses be courses in Physics.
6. An entry which specifies how course requirements can be modified has been added.
7. The requirement of the "submission" of a research proposal has been added to Comprehensive Examination requirement, according to Departmental practice.
8. The entry about the Ph.D. Program in Theoretical Physics has been removed from the program requirements. This program is an Interdisciplinary Program offered through the Faculty of Science, and is mentioned at the top of the revised calendar entry along with other Interdisciplinary Programs.
9. An entry concerning theses has been added for completeness.
10. Four courses which have not been taught in the past twenty years have been struck from the course listing. The table of exemptions has also been struck because it refers to courses last taught more than twenty years ago. Unnecessary and outdated information at the end has also been removed.

Stephanie Curran

36.31 Physics and Physical Oceanography
www.mun.ca/sgs/contacts/sgscontacts.php
www.mun.ca/science
www.mun.ca/physics

The following Departmental Regulations are supplementary to the **General Regulations** governing the M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees. A thorough familiarity with the latter Regulations should be regarded as the prerequisite to further reading in this section.

The Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) is offered in Physical Oceanography and in Physics. The Department also participates in the interdisciplinary Ph.D. programs in **Environmental Science**, in **Scientific Computing**, and in **Theoretical Physics**.

The Department of Physics and Physical Oceanography compiles, and regularly reviews, a brochure which contains reasonably detailed descriptions of currently active research projects, as well as a comprehensive listing of recent research publications, and other material which may be of interest to prospective graduate students.

36.31.1 Program of Study

The Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) is offered in Atomic and Molecular Physics, Physical Oceanography in Condensed Matter Physics, and in Theoretical Physics.

A program of study for the Ph.D. Degree in Atomic and Molecular Physics, Condensed Matter Physics or in Physical Oceanography shall normally include a minimum of 9 graduate credit hours, beyond those required for the M.Sc. Degree. However, depending on the student's background and area of specialization, more or fewer graduate and/or undergraduate courses may be required.

1. Course Requirements for the Ph.D. Degree in Physical Oceanography

Course requirements shall normally include a minimum of 9 graduate credit hours. At least 6 of these credit hours shall be selected from courses numbered 6300-6399 in the list in Section 36.31.2. For students who have transferred from the M. Sc. degree program in Physical Oceanography (see **Section 4.1.3.1a** of the General Regulations), a minimum of 15 credit hours are required (including courses completed while enrolled in the M.Sc. program), of which at least 12 shall be selected from courses numbered 6300-6399 in the list in Section 36.31.2.

2. Course Requirements for the Ph. D. Degree in Physics

Course requirements shall normally include a minimum of 9 graduate credit hours. At least 6 of these credit hours shall be selected from the list in Section 36.31.2. For students who have transferred from from the M. Sc. degree program in Physics (see **Section 4.1.3.1a** of the General Regulations), a minimum of 15 credit hours are required (including courses completed while enrolled in the M.Sc. program), of which at least 12 shall be selected from the list in Section 36.31.2.

3. In exceptional circumstances, modifications to these course requirements as stated in 1 and 2 can be approved by the Departmental Graduate Studies Committee.

4. Comprehensive Examination

The A Comprehensive Examination (as prescribed under **Section 4.8.2** of the General Regulations **Comprehensive Examinations**) shall be an oral one, and may will include the submission and presentation of a written research proposal.

5. ~~The **Ph.D. Program in Theoretical Physics** is an interdisciplinary program offered jointly with the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. The regulations for this program are described under the **Regulations Governing the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy – Theoretical Physics**~~
Thesis

The Ph.D. degree program will conclude with the submission of a thesis based on original research and an oral defense of the thesis, as prescribed in **Section 4.10** of the General Regulations.

36.31.2 Courses

A selection of the following graduate courses will be offered to meet the requirements of candidates, as far as the resources of the Department will allow.

- 6000 Condensed Matter Physics I
- 6001 Condensed Matter Physics II
- 6002 Superconductivity
- 6003 Path Integral Techniques in Condensed Matter Physics
- 6010-19 Special Topics in Condensed Matter Physics
- 6040 Biophysics
- 6060-69 Special Topics in Interdisciplinary Areas
- 6200 Nonlinear Dynamics
- 6308 Ocean Dynamics I
- 6309 Ocean Dynamics II
- 6310 Physical Oceanography
- 6313 Physical Fluid Dynamics
- 6314 Field Oceanography
- 6315 Polar Oceanography
- 6316 Ocean Measurements and Data Analysis
- 6317 Ocean Acoustics
- 6318 Numerical Modelling
- 6319 Climate Dynamics
- 6320 Turbulence
- 6321 Coastal Oceanography
- 6322 Stratified Fluids
- 6323 Stability Theory
- 6324 Models in Ocean Ecology
- 6360-69 (excluding 6363) Special Topics in Physical Oceanography
- 6363 Laboratory Experiments in Geophysical Fluid Dynamics
- 6400 Statistical Mechanics
- 6402 Theory of Phase Transitions
- 6403 Stochastic Processes, Time-Dependent and NonEquilibrium Statistical Mechanics
- 6413 Soft Matter Physics
- 6502 Electrodynamics
- ~~6720 Theory of Molecules~~
- ~~6721 Molecular Spectroscopy~~

- 6722 Light Scattering Spectroscopy
- ~~6730 Molecular Theory of Liquids and Compressed Gases~~
- ~~6740 Physics of Atomic Collisions~~
- 6760-69 Special Topics in Atomic and Molecular Physics
- 6800 Group Theory
- 6810-19 Special Topics in Theoretical and Mathematical Physics
- 6850 Quantum Mechanics I
- 6851 Quantum Mechanics II
- 6900 Techniques in Experimental Condensed Matter Physics
- 6910-19 Special Topics in Experimental and Applied Physics

Table of Credit Restrictions - Physics and Physical Oceanography

- (Credit may be obtained for only one course from each of the pairs of courses listed in this table.)

| Present Course | Former Course | Present Course | Former Course |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 6000 | 6050 | 6318 | 6304 |
| 6001 | 6051 | 6321 | 6303 |
| 6002 | 6822 | 6321 | 6304 |
| 6003 | 6820 | 6323 | 6303 |
| 6200 | 6821 | 6402 | 6401 |
| 6308 | 6312 | 6403 | 6401 |
| 6309 | 6311 | 6403 | 6824 |
| 6313 | 6301 | 6502 | 6500 |
| 6316 | 6302 | 6502 | 6501 |
| 6317 | 6823 | 6722 | 6790 |

~~Members of the Department carry out research in several areas of experimental and theoretical physics, including atomic and molecular physics, condensed matter physics, physical oceanography, theoretical geophysics and applied nuclear physics. In atomic and molecular physics, there are experimental programs in collision-induced infrared absorption spectroscopy, electron emission spectroscopy of simple molecules, molecular ions and free radicals, laser-induced fluorescence spectroscopy, and Raman spectroscopy, and theoretical work on atomic and molecular collisions. The work in condensed matter physics includes experimental programs in solid state nuclear magnetic resonance on systems of biophysical interest, Raman spectroscopy of lipid bilayers and membranes, studies of phase transitions using Brillouin and Raman spectroscopy, studies of instabilities and pattern formation in simple fluid~~

dynamical systems, and spectroscopic studies of molecular crystals. Theoretical condensed matter physics research involves studies of magnetism, superconductivity, and the statistical mechanics of polymers and lipid bilayers. The Physical Oceanography group carries out field and laboratory research on several projects which take advantage of Newfoundland's unique oceanographic environment, using acoustic and other remote sensing techniques. These include studies of circulation on the Newfoundland and Labrador shelves, Labrador current dynamics, fjord dynamics, submarine canyons and sediment transport dynamics in the nearshore zone and on the shelf. Theoretical oceanographic studies involve the modelling of ocean circulation, gravity wave phenomena and other aspects of ocean dynamics. Research in theoretical geophysics is concentrated on whole-Earth dynamics, with special emphasis on the physics of the liquid core (the Earth's "third ocean") as inferred from its wave spectrum and the associated momentum transfer to the deformable solid parts of the Earth. In nuclear physics, research is done on the atmospheric concentrations of radioactive elements and on dosimetry for medical applications.

Note: For Geophysics, see [Earth Sciences](#).

36.31 Physics and Physical Oceanography

www.mun.ca/sgs/contacts/sgscontacts.php

www.mun.ca/science

www.mun.ca/physics

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2. Course Requirements for the Ph.D. Degree in Physics

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- 6502 Electrodynamics
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- 6760-69 Special Topics in Atomic and Molecular Physics
- 6800 Group Theory
- 6810-19 Special Topics in Theoretical and Mathematical Physics
- 6850 Quantum Mechanics I
- 6851 Quantum Mechanics II
- 6900 Techniques in Experimental Condensed Matter Physics
- 6910-19 Special Topics in Experimental and Applied Physics

Note: For Geophysics, see [Earth Sciences](#).

Dean of Science Award for Distinguished Emerging Scholar:

The Dean of Science Award for Distinguished Emerging Scholar recognizes individuals who have made a significant impact with their program of research up to the point at which they receive tenure. There is an expectation of strength in the Distinguished Emerging Scholar's teaching activities.

Nomination Process

The completed nomination form, tenure dossier, and other materials deemed important by the nominee along with an updated CV must be submitted by the nominator. Accompanying the nomination must be a signed letter stating that the nominee agrees to the use of the tenure dossier and the external letters of appraisal by the Awards Committee for the purpose of adjudicating this award. Nominations for this award are typically made by the candidate's home Department Head or delegate. Normally, only one nomination per department will be accepted, though a second nomination may be made, with proper justification. Self-nominations will not be considered.

The deadline for nominations is February 1, 2020.

Note that the tenure dossier is comprised only of the material submitted by the candidate (nominee) and not materials included in the tenure file by the Heads, nor the letters from the P&T committee, Head, Dean, VP (Academic) or President.

Eligibility

The Dean's Award for Distinguished Emerging Scholar may be made to any current Regular Faculty Member within the Faculty of Science in the year in which they are applying for tenure.

The Selection Committee shall be the Faculty of Science Awards Committee. Normally a maximum of one award will be made annually. The committee can recommend that no award be made in a given year if, in its opinion, none of the files examined present a sufficiently compelling case. Likewise, if the committee feels there is more than one exceptional candidate, more than one award may be made.

Questions of interpretation or application of award eligibility criteria and procedures shall be referred to the Dean of Science, whose decision will be final.

The Award

Recipients of the Dean of Science Award for Distinguished Emerging Scholar will be honoured with the following:

1. \$1,000 to be used by the recipient in support of research activities
2. Recognition and citation from the Dean of Science

Criteria

The activities around the Distinguished Emerging Scholar's teaching will be of high quality as expected for such an award. Nominees will be adjudicated based upon the quality, excellence, and impact of their research program. The candidate's national and international stature as a researcher assessed by their peers will form a vital piece of the overall selection. In the context of this award, research refers to peer-reviewed, adjudicated or equivalent research/scholarly work. Indicators of outstanding performance will be evaluated using the criteria for the President's Award for Outstanding Research:

1. Evidence of scholarly dissemination (e.g., publication in refereed journals or series or by publishers recognized as leaders in the field, performances of artistic works, leadership performances (conducting, directing), juried art shows, archival projects, etc.).
2. High ratings of the publications and other research or creative work as attested (where appropriate) by citations indices, by references in published literature, or in letters from distinguished scholars or critics in the field.
3. Favorable published reviews of the publications or creative works.
4. Awards by professional associations for outstanding research or creative work.
5. Grants based on competitive jury recommendations.
6. Research leadership, as evidenced by team achievements.
7. Breadth of expertise.
8. Any other clear evidence of exceptional contribution to the chosen field.

Nomination form for the Dean of Science Award for Distinguished Emerging Scholar

Name of Nominee:

Name of Nominator:

Position of Nominator (e.g. Chair of XX Department):

Please attach:

- 1) Signed permission from nominee to use tenure dossier which will then be provided to the awards committee by the DOS office for the purpose of adjudicating the Dean of Science Award for Distinguished Emerging Scholar.
- 2) Tenure Dossier and recently updated CV.
- 3) Letter outlining why nominee should be given the award (written by nominator)