



Faculty of Science

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**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
FACULTY COUNCIL OF SCIENCE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF FEBRUARY 20, 2019**

A meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science was held on Wednesday, February 20, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. in room C-2045.

FSC 2654

Present

Biochemistry

M. Berry, R. Bertolo, S. Harding

Biology

T. Chapman

Chemistry

C. Bottaro, E. Merschrod, S. Pansare

Computer Science

S. Bungay

Mathematics & Statistics

T. Baird, D. Dyer, R. Haynes, S. Sullivan

Physics & Physical Oceanography

S. Curnoe

Psychology

K. Fowler, C. Walsh

Dean of Science Office

K. Foss, G. Jackson

CITL

A. Todd

FSC 2655

Regrets

G. Fletcher, S. Mantyka, B. Staveley

- FSC 2656 Adoption of Minutes**
Moved: Minutes of the January 16, 2019, meeting be adopted (Sullivan/Bertolo). **Three Abstentions. Carried.**
- FSC 2657 Business Arising:**
In response to the minutes of January 16, 2019, Item number FSC 2648, it was stated that the work on the roof of the Henrietta Harvey building was finished, and the construction debris was removed from the front of the building.
- FSC 2658 Correspondence: None**
- FSC 2659 Reports of Standing Committees:**
- A. Undergraduate Studies Committee:**
Shannon Sullivan presented the memo from the Chair of the SCUgS Sub-Committee on Take-Home Examinations. Any comments on this document can be submitted directly to SCUgS before March 8th, 2019, and a copy sent to Travis Fridgen for information.
 - B. Graduate Studies Committee:**
 - a.** Department of Mathematics and Statistics, special topics course, MATH 6423, Stochastic Differential Equations, approved by the committee and presented to Faculty Council for information only.
 - C. Nominating Committee: None**
 - D. Library Committee: None**
- FSC 2660 Report of Teaching Consultant**
CITL strategic planning consultation - CITL is tasked with moving forward as a major “nexus point” in the new Teaching and Learning Framework. As such, CITL is undergoing major strategic planning. Given the direct impact on teaching support for the Faculty of Science and wider university, participation in the consultation process is encouraged. The face-to-face session is being held Monday, Feb. 25, 10-11:30am, Jr. Common Room. There is also an online survey for those who cannot attend. Registration and the online survey can be found at <https://citl.mun.ca/news.php?id=11838&type=news>
- President’s Teaching Awards – Nomination deadlines for the President's Awards for Excellence in Teaching and Graduate Supervision are coming up in mid-March. In particular, they are seeking more nominations in the categories for Lecturers and Instructional Staff, and Early Career Faculty. For more information regarding the awards visit <https://citl.mun.ca/TeachingSupport/PresidentAwards.php>
- Faculty of Science Teaching Retreat – Registration is still open for the retreat, taking place on Friday, February 22. We recognize that this is a busy time, so please ensure that instructors are aware that partial registration is also welcome.

FSC 2661**Report of the Dean**

Presented by Mark Abrahams, Dean.

1. I have now received updates from the Provost on replacement positions associated with the Voluntary Retirement Program. The affected departments have been advised on the number of faculty they will be able to recruit, and the availability of start-up support that is currently available so that some units should be able to begin their searches this academic term.
2. Phase 2 funding for the Ocean Frontier Institute has been announced. A total of \$16.3M is available of which \$7.9M is targeted to research at Memorial, and \$600K is for cross-cutting activities including indigenous and EDI training and workshops. More information is available at the OFI website (www.oceanfrontierinstitute.com) on the Phase 2 funding tab, but key details are that these are intended as large research consortia applications that are four years in duration, and the deadline for submitting an expression of interest is April 11, 2019, and full proposals by June 25, 2019.

FSC 2662**Question Period**

The Dean was questioned about faculty replacement on a go forward basis and the attrition plan. At this point it is uncertain about future faculty hires, and there is no guarantee that future retirements will be replaced.

The Department of Mathematics and Statistics still has ongoing issues regarding the Henrietta Harvey Building. Some computers in the server room are still not back online and research may potentially be lost. A classroom in the building has a bad smell that has not dissipated since the flood. This has been reported through the MUN app many times but there is still no report on an assessment of the room. Dr. Abrahams offered his assistance to help with escalating this issue.

In addition, 4 Clarke Place, which has been used as graduate student space for the Department of Mathematics and Statistics, has been closed since late in the fall semester due to flooding. Facilities Management is completing a final check on this space today, and it should be opened to students in the next few days. Unfortunately, lack of communication from FM resulted in the department not knowing the status of the space.

There is a long-term infrastructure plan for MUN, which can be found on the President's website, but this does not address immediate issues. To address long-term building problems, seed money is needed through fundraising/donors. This may be able to help secure a new building.

The Dean is hoping to meet with Stephen Green to discuss the ITS space in the Henrietta Harvey building.

Motion: A motion of support to the Department of Mathematics and Statistics in light of their infrastructure issues. (Merschrod/Craighead). **Carried**

FSC 2663

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:33p.m.