



Faculty of Science

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**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
FACULTY COUNCIL OF SCIENCE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF APRIL 15, 2020**

A meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science was held on Wednesday, April 15, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. using Bluejeans.

FSC 2738 Present

Biochemistry

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

Biology

T. Chapman, S. Dufour, E. Edinger

Chemistry

C. Bottaro

Computer Science

S. Bungay, Y. Chen

Earth Sciences

G. Layne

Mathematics & Statistics

R. Haynes, J. Loredano-Osti, S. Mantyka, D. Pike, S. Sullivan, A. Variyath

Ocean Sciences

A. Bates, G. Fletcher

Physics & Physical Oceanography

S. Curnoe, M. Evstigneev, J. Lagowski, M. Morrow, J. Munroe

Psychology

D. Hallett, W. Montevecchi, C. Thorpe, C. Walsh, D. Wilson

Dean of Science Office

M. Abrahams, C. Barrett, K. Foss, T. Fridgen, G. Jackson, T. Mackenzie, L. Zedel

Staff

C. Deacon, J. Friesen, C. Hyde, B. Power

Graduate Students

A. Alfosool, W. Mao

FSC 2739 Regrets

K. Fowler, K. Poduska

FSC 2740 Adoption of Minutes

Moved: Minutes of the meeting of February 19, 2020, meeting be adopted (Berry/Sullivan). **Carried.**

FSC 2741 Business Arising: None

FSC 2742 Correspondence: None

FSC 2743 Reports of Standing Committees:

The Graduate Committee presented prior to the Undergraduate Committee.

A. Undergraduate Studies Committee:

- a) Shannon Sullivan presented a change to the Dean's list criteria, specifically regarding eligibility of work-term students. **(Sullivan/Munroe). Carried.**

Shannon Sullivan presented a second change to the Dean's list criteria for the 2019/20 academic year as a result of the current Public Health Advisory regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and students being awarded a PAS/FAL grade in lieu of a numerical grade. This year a stipulation will be added that students will be eligible for the Dean's List if they have no more than two PAS grades. **(Sullivan/Munroe). One abstention. Carried**

- b) Departments of Ocean Sciences and Biology, OCSC 4922/BIOL 4922, Special Topics in Marine Diversity, approved by the committee and presented to Faculty Council for information only.

B. Graduate Studies Committee:

Department of Physics and Physical Oceanography, special topics course PHYS 6818, Quantum Field Theory, approved by the committee and presented to Faculty Council for information only.

C. Nominating Committee: None

D. Library Committee: None

FSC 2744 Report of the Dean

Presented by Mark Abrahams, Dean

1. As you know, this will be my last Science council meeting for some time. I will be moving over to the Provost's office and I greatly appreciate Dr. Travis Fridgen serving as the interim Dean of Science in my absence.
2. The only issue that I have been dealing with since our last Science council is the pandemic. As you know, the university had to make big decisions in a very short period of time, and I want to let you all know how incredibly proud I have been of the Faculty of Science. Faculty, staff, and students have all risen to the challenge. In very short order, you all modified your teaching to accommodate remote learning. Individuals in the Faculty of Science have ensured that unused PPE is made available to Regional Health Authorities. Faculty in Mathematics and Statistics and Computer Science have provided their expertise to Eastern Health to model the local dynamics of this pandemic to determine if and when demand on hospitals may exceed capacity. Molecular geneticists have made their expertise and reagents available to boost the province's testing capacity. I have no doubt that there are many other contributions of which I am not aware.
3. Next week the university will be implementing further restrictions to access campus with different designations for different buildings. All faculty should be able to get access to their office or laboratory, but you will require permission to do so. The reason for doing so is to further ensure the health and safety of the university community, including those that are required to come on campus because their work is considered critical. Once again, I appreciate your cooperation with this. If there are significant problems with this system, please let me know.
4. We would all like to know when we will return to more normal operations and at this point nobody knows. What we do know is that social distancing has been very effective in limiting the spread of Covid-19 so the current situation will likely persist for some time. We hope that by September, we may be able to return to normal operations, but I don't think that is something we can count on. For that reason, we do need to think about how we offer our curriculum in September and the challenge of delivering our laboratories. I am asking department heads to consult with their colleagues nationally and internationally for ideas that they are developing.

FSC 2745 Question Period

Due to COVID-19, it is a good assumption that field work will be prohibited for this summer, but all decisions will be made following advice from the public health authority. If you need to apply for permits, you can do so and the worst case will be that the permits are not used.

A memo will be distributed regarding access to campus. Entry to the Chemistry/Physics building will be not as restrictive as that for other buildings, but those details will be released soon.

We should plan to not be on campus for the Fall semester for now. It may be that only faculty and staff are on campus, but whatever form that return takes, we will not be permitted to have large numbers of students in any classrooms. CITL and ITS are looking

at systems currently being used for course delivery. We also have Webex that can facilitate larger meetings.

FSC 2746

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:57p.m.