



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 July 15, 2020**

A meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science was held on Wednesday, August 19, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. using Webex.

FSC 2774 Present

Biochemistry

M. Berry, Bertolo, V. Booth

Biology

J. Burke, T. Chapman, S. Dufour

Chemistry

E. Merschrod, S. Pansare

Computer Science

C. Hyde

Earth Sciences

G. Layne

Mathematics & Statistics

I. Booth, D. Dyer, R. Haynes, JC Loredano-Osti, T. Sheel, S. Sullivan, A. Variyath

Physics & Physical Oceanography

S. Curnoe, M. Morrow, I. Saika-Voivod

Psychology

J. Blundell, M. Courage

Dean of Science Office

C. Barrett, S. Bungay, C. Evans, T. Fridgen, A. Highsted, G. Jackson, G. Kenny

Staff

T. Mackenzie, R. Newhook

Graduate Students

G. Sindol

FSC 2775 **Regrets:** None

FSC 2776 **Adoption of Minutes**

Moved: Minutes of the meeting of July 15, 2020, meeting be adopted (Sullivan/Berry).
One abstention. Carried.

FSC 2777 **Business Arising:** None

FSC 2778 **Correspondence:** None

FSC 2779 **Reports of Standing Committees:**

A. Undergraduate Studies Committee:

Presented by Shannon Sullivan, Chair, Undergraduate Studies Committee

a. Department of Biology, BIOL 4916, Special topics in Plant Ecology and Global change, approved by the committee and presented to Faculty Council for information only.

B. Graduate Studies Committee: No business.

C. Nominating Committee: No business.

D. Library Committee: No business.

FSC 2780 **Report of the Dean**

Presented by Travis Fridgen, Acting Dean

1. Acting ADSR and Head of Psychology

Thank you to Jacqueline Blundell of Psychology who has been acting Associate Dean of Science (Research & Graduate) (ADSR) for Len Zedel while he is on vacation and who will be ADSR during Len's administrative leave. I would also like to thank Mary Courage who, as of August 1, has assumed the position of Interim Head of Psychology.

2. Annual Activity Reports

The annual activity reports covering September 1, 2019, to August 31, 2020, are due toward the end of September. For this year only, the submission of annual activity reports is optional. It is hoped that ASM's will submit reports and in this regard, the Dean's office will also accept late submissions should you choose to submit a report and you require more time.

3. Online Proctoring

The Dean of Science office sent out a memo about making requests for remotely proctored assessments. I have not yet received any information about funding from the Provost. Regardless, it is doubtful that anyone, other than officially online

courses, will be able to avail of ProctorU's services due to cost. Costs associated with remote proctoring will largely need to be covered by departmental budgets. Tomorrow at noon, a seminar by John Craighead, Jonathan Anderson, and Geoff Rideout entitled "Effective, Secure and Affordable On-line Proctoring" covering a pilot project which used Webex and Brightspace, as well as graduate proctors will be presented.

4. **President/VP Employee Meeting**

Please mark on your calendars, if you haven't already, for Thursday August 27th beginning at 11:30 am for an Employee Townhall with the President and Vice-Presidents.

5. **President is Visiting the Department of Ocean Sciences**

On Thursday September 17th, Garth and I will accompany Dr. Timmons on a tour of the Department of Ocean Sciences, which I suppose is the final stop on her pan-provincial tour of communities in NL and Memorial campuses.

FSC 2781

Question Period

There was discussion around the President's tour and whether or not she has toured the entire St. John's campus. She does plan to tour the campus, and visit all the departments, but that may not happen until everyone returns to campus.

The Provincial Government has mandated that face masks must be worn in all public spaces. The Acting Dean will get more information on that, specifically regarding whether or not research labs are public spaces. The recommendation is that when people are working in close proximity and six feet of separation is not practical, face masks must be worn.

The Henrietta Harvey building is still undergoing roof work. The Acting Dean sits on the buildings committee and they have not met very often over the last few months, but he will ask about the ventilation in that building once regular meetings are underway. He will also get in touch with Facilities Management to inquire about the asbestos abatement work that was scheduled for that building as the roof repairs are completed. The Acting Dean will try to get information to report back to Council at the next meeting.

There was concern expressed about the classroom and lab space that will be lost if the science building is demolished. The Registrar's Office is completing a study on rooms that will be lost and what can be done to mitigate the effects of this loss.

There was some discussion about when an announcement will be made about the Winter 2021 semester and what form instruction will take during that semester. There is concern that there should be more consultation in order to make any decisions about the semester and that the decision should be soon so that there is more time to plan.

FSC 2782

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:29 p.m.