



Faculty of Science

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**FACULTY OF SCIENCE
FACULTY COUNCIL OF SCIENCE
MINUTES OF MEETING OF MAY 20, 2020**

A meeting of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Science was held on Wednesday, May 20, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. using Webex.

FSC 2747 Present

Biochemistry

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

Biology

T. Chapman, S. Dufour, E. Edinger

Chemistry

C. Bottaro, E. Merschrod, S. Pansare

Computer Science

M. Hatcher, O. Meruvia Pastor, A. Soares

Earth Sciences

G. Dunning, G. Layne

Marine Institute

S. Caines

Mathematics & Statistics

I. Booth, R. Haynes, J. Loredó-Osti, S. Mantyka, M. Merkli, D. Pike, S. Sullivan, A. Variyath, J. Xiao

Ocean Sciences

G. Fletcher

Physics & Physical Oceanography

L. Beaulieu, S. Curnoe, J. Lagowski, M. Morrow, J. Munroe, K. Poduska, I. Saika-Voivod

Psychology

A. Swift-Gallant, C. Thorpe, C. Walsh, D. Wilson

Dean of Science Office

S. Bungay, K. Foss, T. Fridgen, G. Jackson, G. Kenny, T. Mackenzie, R. Newhook, L. Zedel

Staff

C. Hyde, A. Langille, S. Malek, J. Pittman, B. Power, N. Vanasse, E. Whelan

Graduate Students

A. Alfosool

FSC 2748

Regrets

K. Fowler

FSC 2749

Adoption of Minutes

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

FSC 2750

Business Arising: None

FSC 2751

Correspondence: None

FSC 2752

Reports of Standing Committees:

A.

Undergraduate Studies Committee:

Presented by Shannon Sullivan, Chair, Undergraduate Studies Committee.

a. Department of Biology, special topics course BIOL 4914, Special Topics in Marine Mammal Acoustics, approved by the committee and presented to Faculty Council for information only.

b. Department of Biology, special topics course BIOL 4915, Special Topics in Social Insects, approved by the committee and presented to Faculty Council for information only.

B.

Graduate Studies Committee:

Presented by Graham Layne, Chair, Graduate Studies Committee.

Departments of Mathematics and Statistics and Physics and Physical Oceanography, cross-listed course MATH 6252/PHYS 6852, Quantum Information and Computing. (Layne/Loredo-Osti). **Carried.**

C.

Nominating Committee: None

D.

Library Committee: None

FSC 2753

Report of the Dean

Presented by Travis Fridgen, Acting Dean

1. a) Fall semester will be offered remotely

This is going to provide obvious challenges in many of our programs, from the offering of remote labs to evaluation, and remote instruction. I know there are a lot of concerns and that this is going to be a lot of work for faculty and staff transitioning to remote instruction. If there are things that the university might be able to do to assist in making this process easier, there is an academic scenario planning steering committee who are discussing how we implement this online semester, right down to things such as how to get textbooks to students. Please send any requests that will make this work easier to your Heads, and I would be happy to bring these to the committee for discussion and recommendation to Vice-Presidents Council.

b) Academic Support Representative

Keith Power is Faculty of Science's academic support representative who will be available to work with Departments over the coming months to help with pedagogy and technical issues in the delivery of on-line courses. Requests should go through department heads. Chat and phone support will also be available for "just in time" help associated with technical questions.

c) Bringing Honours Students to Campus

Academic units can now submit proposals to permit students on campus for the Fall semester. At a Heads' meeting last month, we discussed bringing necessary Honours project students to campus. I have asked Heads to identify numbers of students in each academic unit who will be doing Honours projects which will represent a maximum number of students. Each department will have a brief plan including the following:

1. Health and safety measures (i.e. PPE).
2. Equity and accessibility (we cannot compel students to come to campus). We will need to identify projects that can be done remotely for students who cannot come to campus for various reasons.
3. Contingency plan. What if alert levels go backward and we are forced to evacuate campus?

2. Level 4 research activities

We are currently receiving and looking at proposals to allow Level 4 research activity. It is important to get this right. If we limit our proposed research activities to those prioritized in the document under Level 4. If we get this right, the AVPR has suggested that future levels of activity could be handled at the faculty level.

3. Hats off Ceremony

The University is planning a Hats Off Ceremony to recognize the completion of students' academic programs. The event will take place on May 28, at 7 pm via Facebook Live with a message from President Vianne Timmons and appearances by alumni, including Alan Doyle and Trent McClellan. More information will be shared with departments.

4. Summer Courses for Grade 12 students

Grade 12 students will be able to take credit courses that are scheduled to begin June 4 with classes ending August 12. The Faculty of Science is proposing to offer EASC 2918, PSYC 1000, and OCSC 1000. Thank you to OCSC, PSYC, and EASC for quick responses and submitting these courses.

There will be much variety in our incoming students' math skills due to the truncation of the school year. Some students in semesterised schools will have only three weeks of instruction in their second semester courses, and for which they have received a passing grade based on work done. I would like to thank the Math department and the committees who have done a fantastic job designing credit and non-credit bridging programs for our incoming students. Math is offering MATH 1090 and 1000, for credit, as refreshers as well as non-credit remedial instruction to students this summer.

5. Roof on Henrietta Harvey Building

I was initially told that work on the roof of Henrietta Harvey would begin by the 3rd week of June. However, the recent Newslite has pushed this up to next week. I am now told action will be beginning next week weather permitting. FM will soon provide building wide notification of the anticipated work schedule.

6. Course Equivalencies Committee

I am one of 8 members of the Special Committee on Course Equivalencies. After almost 7 months of work, I am excited to report that the committee will be releasing a document for feedback soon.

7. Spring semester meetings.

While we do not normally meet in the spring semester, I propose we continue monthly meetings in June, July, and August.

FSC 2754 Question Period

There was discussion on the delivery of courses for the Fall semester, and specifically concerning whether faculty would teach from home or from campus. The assumption is that more faculty and staff will be permitted on campus when the province moves to Level 2 of the current COVID-19 Alert Level System. Lecture capture is preferred by most faculty members for course delivery.

Concern was expressed about the pausing of hiring faculty during the current Public Health Emergency. Very few universities are putting out ads for faculty positions at this time. The Acting Dean will continue to raise the issue of permitting job searches with the Provost.

A motion was put forward by E. Merschrod:

We encourage you to speak up to VPC on resuming job searches.

Seconded by O. Meruvia-Pastor.

Discussion: It is understood that the university will not be conducting in-person interviews at this time. If job ads can be posted and searches started, at least we can move this work forward.

Motion carried unanimously.

The issue of extending emergency funding for graduate students is being considered and a decision will be made next week and will be communicated to the departments and graduate students.

FSC 2755

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.