



TEMERTY FACULTY OF MEDICINE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Faculty Council of the Temerty Faculty of Medicine
Minutes of the April 24, 2023 meeting
4:00 p.m.
Via Zoom Videoconference

Members Present: Luc De Nil (Speaker), Todd Coomber, Veronica Wadey, Brenda Mori, Meg Connell, Rita Kandel, Modupe Tunde-Byass, Wusun Paek, Erin Styles, Denis Bourguignon, Mary-Louise Greer, Darlene Reid, Jennie Johnstone, Zhenya Ivakine, Lisa Robinson, Beverley Orser, Suzan Schneeweiss, Justin Nodwell, Peeter Poldre, Bojana Djordjevic, Douglas Templeton, Kyle Kirkham, David Jenkins, Gordon Moe, Rick Penciner, Nana Lee, Lanujan Kaneswaran, Denis Margalik, Arthur Mortha, Matthew Buechler, Christie Welch, Dmitry Rozenberg, Sean Kidd, Lynn Wilson, JC Zúñiga-Pflücker, Jack Barkin, Andrew Wilde, John Kingdom

1 Call to Order

2 Minutes of the previous meeting of Faculty Council – February 6, 2023

The minutes of the meeting of February 6, 2023 had been previously circulated. They were approved on a motion from J. Nodwell and seconded by B. Mori. There was no business arising.

3 Report from the Speaker

Dr. Luc De Nil indicated that, as per the Faculty Council By-laws, the Executive Committee received and reviewed external reviews for the BSc in Medical Radiation Sciences, the Department of Radiation Oncology, and the Department of Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology.

Dr. De Nil also noted that two new concentrations have been proposed to the Master of Science in Applied Computing. These proposals were information only as they fall under the purview of the Faculty of Arts and Science. The new concentrations are Artificial Intelligence in Health Care and Data Science for Biology.

Finally, Dr. De Nil asked any members who have suggestions for future topics for the Faculty Council Forum to reach out to Deputy Speaker, Dr. Veronica Wadey; Faculty Affairs Officer, Todd Coomber; or him.

4 Report from the Dean's Office

Dean Trevor Young was out of the country and not in attendance. The report from the Dean's Office was presented by Dr. Justin Nodwell, Vice Dean, Research & Health Science Education, on his portfolio.

There are several initiatives underway in undergraduate education, graduate education and research but a large part of this past year and a half has been restructuring the office. The new Research & Health Science Education portfolio is a merger of the old GLSE and Research portfolios. The merger would allow resource sharing and synergy between the research and education side as the line between them is often blurry. There have been a number of new positions created while other old positions have been eliminated.

Sara Sharifpoor has been recruited as the Director of the Vice Dean's Office and has been leading the implementation and execution of a number of priorities including much of the staffing changes and the oversight of finance and administration. Sarah has also looked at the large number of endowed scholarships, most of which have not been awarded, in some cases, for 20 years due to the rules around them. Sarah has

been working to loosen those rules such that the scholarships can be awarded more regularly. These efforts have gotten close to a million dollars distributed in support of graduate students. Much of this money has been redirected into entrance scholarships to enhance recruitment.

Joanna King is the Manager of Business and Research Administration and she is responsible for budget oversight and some of the HR work. She also handles the administration of grants, awards, and trust accounts.

Ahlia Khan Trottier is the new Associate Dean, Undergraduate Education and has been in the position for about 7 or 8 months. This marks the first time the Faculty has direct leadership in (non-clinical) undergraduate education despite having 17,000 undergraduates enrolled in our classes.

Karen Maxwell, the Director of Research will lead research initiatives and grant pre-review for CIHR. She will also be working to enhance faculty awards nominations and uptake.

Antonio Strafella, Director, Clinical Research & Translation, will coordinate research in the clinical departments and he will be leading a committee of the Associate Chairs of Research in the clinical departments. He has an interest in interinstitutional collaboration which is a priority at TAHSN.

Rachel Zula, the Graduate Affairs Officer, will likely have her role expanded to include undergraduate education.

Jarrod Ladouceur, Industrial Partnerships Officer, is working to enhance partnerships and pursue funding opportunities for PIs.

David Jenkins brought up the issue of grants and suggested that people who collaborate broadly often face challenges when applying for grants. Dr. Nodwell acknowledged this issue and mentioned efforts being made to address it including University level lobbying of the federal government for increased CIHR funding. Dr. Nodwell noted that private sector leaders advocating for increased CIHR funding could be more effective in influencing government decisions.

5 Standing Committee Annual Reports

5.1 PGME Board of Examiners

Dr. Kyle Kirkham, Chair of the PGME Board of Examiners, reminded members that the Board reviews requests from Program Directors or from Dr. Meredith Giuliani, Associate Dean, PGME, regarding clinical learners in postgraduate programs who require remediation or educational support. The Board considers various options, up to dismissal, but focuses mainly on remediation to help residents return to their training programs.

Dr. Kirkham noted the collaboration between the Board of Examiners and the PGME Office, stressing the importance of evidence-based remediation plans that align with educational goals. He mentioned that these plans are often well-developed by the partnership of the program and the PGME Office.

Dr. Kirkham presented data on the volumes of cases reviewed by the Board over the years, with a trend of decreasing ongoing cases. Most cases result in successful remediation, with residents returning to their regular program streams. Some residents choose to withdraw or transfer, and very few cases lead to dismissal. The breakdown of cases between junior and senior learners see senior learners often facing more complex challenges due to increased responsibilities in clinical programs.

The financial source of funding for most residents is the Ministry of Health in Ontario, but there is a slight overrepresentation of International Medical Graduates.

Remediation requests are broken into CanMEDS domains, with Medical Expert being the most common area of concern. The Board aims to focus remediation on one or two primary domains to ensure effective support.

Dr. Kirkham mentioned the strengthening relationship with the Office of Learner Affairs which now has representatives attend and observe the meetings. The Board collaborates with the Board of Medical Assessors but maintains separation between different elements of support.

5.2 Education Committee

Dr. Brenda Mori, Associate Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy, introduced herself and her role as the Chair of the Education Committee. Dr. Mori emphasized the importance of acknowledging the committee members, who belong to three different categories: *ex officio* members, faculty members, and student members. Post-COVID, meetings continue to be held online which has encouraged strong attendance and active engagement.

The Education Committee's primary purpose is to review proposals to maintain program standards and quality. They oversee areas such as admissions, awards, financial aid, curriculum, and evaluation. The committee handles various programs, including the MD Program, PGME, graduate education, Medical Radiation Sciences, and the Physician Assistant Program. The committee meets four times a year.

Proposals that are reviewed include those for new courses, minor program changes, such as modifications related to grading. Over the last few years a number of programs have converted their modular courses into independent quarter credit courses to ensure proper recognition on transcripts. The Committee will also review major program modifications or new programs which are then approved by Faculty Council.

Dr. Mori thanked Todd Coomber, Faculty Affairs Officer, for his critical role in managing the committee's work and ensuring all necessary paperwork was prepared and distributed promptly.

5.3 Research Committee

Dr. Arthur Mortha indicated that this has been his first year in the role of Research Committee Chair but noted that there had been no items come forward for his committee to discuss. Dr. Mortha indicated a desire for business to come forward for discussion next year and noted that there is at least one item expected.

6 Faculty Council Forum

Dr. Timothy Chan, Associate Vice-President and Vice-Provost, Strategic Initiatives, presented the Forum on the U of T Institutional Strategic Research Plan.

7 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.