



TEMERTY FACULTY OF MEDICINE
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Faculty Council of the Temerty Faculty of Medicine
Minutes of the February 6, 2023 meeting
4:00 p.m.
Via Zoom Videoconference

Members Present: Luc De Nil (Speaker), Todd Coomber, Veronica Wadey, Brenda Mori, Nick Reed, Meg Connell, Rita Kandel, Modupe Tunde-Byass, Trevor Young, Wusun Paek, Erin Styles, Denis Bourguignon, Hossein Afsharpour, Anne Agur, Mary-Louise Greer, Darlene Reid, Frances St George-Hyslop, Kamil Uludag, Jennie Johnstone, Zhenya Ivakine, Lisa Robinson, Beverley Orser, Sean Kidd, Dmitry Rozenberg, Gordon Moe, George Chiramel, Mary Boulos, Suzan Schneeweiss, Justin Nodwell, Peeter Poldre, Raeesa Patel, Gina John, Natalie Landon-Brace, Rick Penciner, Bojana Djordjevic, David Jenkins, Douglas Templeton, Bob Bleakney, Antonio Pignatiello, Blake Papsin, Kyle Kirkham

1 Call to Order

2 Minutes of the previous meeting of Faculty Council – October 17, 2022

The minutes of the meeting of October 17, 2022 had been previously circulated. They were approved on a motion from N. Reed and seconded by V. Wadey. There was no business arising.

3 Report from the Speaker

Dr. Luc De Nil introduced Dr. Veronica Wadey as the new Deputy Speaker of Faculty Council. Dr. Wadey is an associate professor in Surgery.

4 Report from the Dean's Office

Dean Trevor Young thanked the members for their continued efforts on behalf of the Faculty.

Dean Young noted that the work on the expansion of the MD and PT programs at UT Scarborough is moving quickly. In addition, the Faculty will likely be engaging in partnerships on some undergraduate programs to bolster the pre-medical curriculum. The proposal for the building has been discussed at Governing Council and has received a large amount of support.

The PA program will also be expanding given that there are currently thousands of applications for 30 positions. The government has announced that there will be 52 new positions between U of T and McMaster but the breakdown positions coming to U of T is currently being worked out.

The Faculty is in the final stages of developing an EDU with the Dalla Lana of School of Public Health Building on the work of the Center for Sustainable Health Systems. This proposal is expected to come to Faculty Council soon for consideration. The proposal will include educational programs and research. Dean Young noted that there are already significant improvements in educational opportunities in the climate change and planetary health space in the MD Program with more being developed. More details on the EDU will follow but, as Dalla Lana will be the lead Faculty, it is important to let them to finalize the proposal before too much information is shared.

Beginning February 14, Dr. David Jenkins leading an 8 part weekly series entitled Health (human and planetary) and the Existential Threat of the Anthropocene. Details can be found on the Faculty website and

Dean Young asked Mr. Todd Coomber to share the link with the members. This lecture series will not only cover issues such as diet and nutrition but broader topics as well. Dean Young noted that Dr. Jenkins was in attendance and asked him to share any information about the series.

Dr. Jenkins thanked Dean Young for his support in the development of this lecture series. The series will feature a number of international speakers coming to talk on specific aspects of the Anthropocene and its effect on human activities which relate to both human health and planetary health.

Dean Young thanked Dr. Jenkins and noted that this is a topic that should be receiving more attention, especially in medicine, and there will be more to come in that respect.

Finally, Dean Young noted that Dr. Justin Nodwell, Vice Dean, Research & Health Science Education, will provide an update on the changes and developments in his large portfolio.

5 Items for Approval

5.1 Education Committee

THAT the Guidelines For Procedure - Faculty Of Medicine Appeals Committee be approved as submitted

Mr. Coomber indicated that many of the changes are language-based changing “students” to “learners” or “appellants” and changing “he/she” to “they”. The remaining changes come from knowledge gained from using the document. The Informal Consideration meeting is being modified such that both the Appellant and the Vice Dean or their designate, are permitted to have one support person. This is being added as it was happening in practice for the Vice Deans as they would typically bring someone to observe the meeting or take notes. This change formalizes that the appellant is also allowed to have a support person. The support person is not permitted to participate as a means to discourage lawyers from getting involved at this stage.

The appellant is being asked to clearly state their desired resolution to the appeal when submitting their appeal materials.

The appellant is also being asked to confirm their intention to bring legal counsel at a more appropriate time in the appeal process. Mr. Coomber noted that the appellant never waives their right to legal counsel. This amendment just changes the point at which they need to make it known without potentially delaying the appeal process.

Finally, the document changes how *in camera* is defined allowing all witnesses, by default, to attend for the duration of the hearing rather than have the default be that witnesses may only attend while they are presenting evidence. This allows for a better flow to hearing, prevents repetition, and makes it easy to ask follow-up questions.

Dr. Mary-Louise Greer suggested that specific wording around the recording on the proceeding should be made including both the hearing and the Informal Consideration meeting. Mr. Coomber agreed that specific language prohibiting the recording of all proceeding outside of the recording of the hearing created by the Faculty Affairs Officer would be valuable. He also noted that language could be added to clarify that the Faculty Affairs Officer’s recording would be destroyed following the finalization of the Chair’s letter to the appellant.

The Speaker indicated that suggested amendments would be included in the approved document.

The following was moved by B. Mori and seconded by V. Wadey:

“THAT the modifications to the Guidelines for Procedure - Faculty of Medicine Appeals Committee be approved as amended.”

The motion passed.

6 Standing Committee Annual Reports

6.1 UME Board of Examiners

Dr. Bob Bleakney indicated that there are 1057 medical students currently in the MD program and 31 of them were presented to the Board of the Examiners. The vast majority of the students are presented during their third year of medical school. In the past, more year one and two students were presented but since moving to the Foundations curriculum (which has its own Student Progress Committee) the numbers have greatly decreased. There are also rarely cases of students in fourth year being presented as most difficulties will have arisen earlier in Clerkship. Fourth year issues are typically a result of problems with professionalism.

There was a slight spike of cases during the pandemic, but the 31 students presented this year represents a return to pre-pandemic levels. This is true also of the 14 students this year that ended up on an abnormal schedule following their BOE case.

There has been an increase in the number of motions that have been rescinded by the BOE with 14 this year up from 7 in the previous year. A motion will be rescinded if a student does not meet expectations and then it is discovered that they have an underlying learning difficulty. Once it is determined that accommodations should have been in place for the failed evaluation, the motion is rescinded, and the student is given the chance to retake the evaluation with the required accommodations.

In response to questions, Dr. Bleakney noted that the majority of Clerkship failures are on mastery exercises or OSCEs and that it is very rare that a student will fail the clinical part of a course. He also noted that, when a student requires accommodations, the BOE is not made aware of what the accommodations are or the issue that they are addressing.

6.2 Appeals Committee

Dr. Blake Papsin reminded Council that, prior to taking on the Chair of the Appeals Committee, he was the Chair of the UME Board of Examiners for nearly a decade. Dr. Papsin took in this role in 2020 and ensured that there were Vice Chairs in place who could take over, given the potential conflicts that may have arisen from his previous role as BOE Chair. None have occurred to this point, and all of the specific BOE cases overseen by Dr Papsin and most of the BOE students seen by Dr. Papsin should have cleared the system by now.

There have been four new members added to the Committee since the last report and Dr. Papsin reminded Council that the Appeals Committee allows for three 3-year terms unlike the other Standing Committees of Council that only allow two 3-year terms. This reduces the amount of turnover and increases the amount of corporate memory given the dearth of appeals.

There has been one appeal hearing since the last report. The appeal was upheld, which is quite unusual. The process was seen to have been tainted before the case came to the BOE and although, there was significant evidence supporting the decision made by the BOE, the Appeals Committee did not believe the learner received a fair process at all points.

Dr. Papsin indicated there is an appeal hearing scheduled for next week and he will be happy to provide information on that case as part of his report for next year.

7 Faculty Council Forum

Dr. Tony Pignatiello, Dr. Eric Crawford, and MD student Nader Chaya presented a Faculty Council Forum entitled: Supporting Learners Across the Continuum.

8 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.