



TEMERTY FACULTY OF MEDICINE  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Faculty Council of the Temerty Faculty of Medicine  
Minutes of the October 16, 2023 meeting  
4:00 p.m.  
Via Zoom Videoconference

**Members Present:** Luc De Nil (Speaker), Todd Coomber, Brenda Mori, Meg Connell, Rita Kandel, Denis Bourguignon, Mary-Louise Greer, Lisa Robinson, Peeter Poldre, Kyle Kirkham, Gordon Moe, Rick Penciner, Denis Margalik, Christie Welch, Dmitry Rozenberg, Lynn Wilson, Andrew Wilde, Viola Antao, Alayne Kealey, Asaph Rolnitsky, Susan Poutanen, Kien Crosse, Andrew Mazzanti, Robyn Loves, Adria Giacca, Danielle Martin, Lisa Allen, Sheila Riazi, Anne Agur, Angus McQuibban, Chao Wang, Evgueni Ivakine, Brenda Bui, Wendy Whittle, Katey Karmazyn, Susan Poutanen, Karl Zabjek, Pier Bryden, Pascal van Lieshout, Evonemo Esievoadje, Chavon Niles, Asaph Rolnitsky, Evonemo Esievoadje, Chen Wang

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**1 Call to Order**

**2 Minutes of the previous meeting of Faculty Council – April 24, 2023**

The minutes of the meeting of April 24, 2023 had been previously circulated. They were approved on a motion from B. Mori and seconded by K. Kirkham. There was no business arising.

**3 Report from the Speaker**

Dr. De Nil noted that it is the first meeting of the 2023-2024 academic year and welcomed all new and returning members. He thanked the members for their willingness to serve on this important governance body. He reminded members that Faculty Council has the authority for the academic policies of the faculty. Council has authority to recommend approval to Governing Council of the creation and closure of academic departments, academic units, and EDUs. Council sets policies and procedures for academic appeals within the clinical programs (graduate student appeals are handled through the School of Graduate Studies).

Dr. Luc De Nil indicated that, as per the Faculty Council By-laws, the Executive Committee received and reviewed external reviews for the Department of Nutritional Sciences, the Department of Medical biophysics, the Department of Physiology, and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

**4 Report from the Dean's Office**

Interim Dean Patricia Houston was travelling and not in attendance. The report from the Dean's Office was presented by Dr. Lisa Robinson, Vice Dean, Strategy and Operations, on her portfolio.

Dr. Robinson expressed gratitude for the opportunity to address the Council on behalf of Dr. Houston. Dr. Robinson announced that Dean Trevor Young has been appointed as the University's Provost, starting in January 2024. Dr. Houston will continue to serve as the interim Dean while the search for a new Dean is underway.

Dr. Robinson indicated that in her role of Vice Dean, Strategy and Operations, she oversees academic affairs, which includes departmental and program reviews, as well as chair searches. She informed the Council that there are currently ongoing chair searches for the departments of physical therapy, speech and language pathology, and Medicine.

Additionally, there are external and UTQAP reviews for the Department of Medicine and the Institute of Medical Science, scheduled for the academic year 2023-24.

In academic strategic planning, Dr. Robinson mentioned that the current strategic plan covers the period from 2018 to 2023. Dr. Robinson noted that this timeline would typically mean a new strategic plan would be in development, but with a new Dean being appointed in the near future, the Faculty would continue to be guided by the current plan's principles until the new Dean assumes office and work begins on the next plan.

Lisa took a moment to acknowledge the Temerty Center for AI Research and Education in Medicine (T-CAIREM), which recently hosted its inaugural conference called "Ideas to Impact." She commended T-CAIREM for its leadership in multidisciplinary collaborative research and artificial intelligence under the direction of Muhammad Mamdani.

Concluding her update, Dr. Robinson addressed the recent tragic events in Gaza and Israel. She conveyed the University's support for those affected by the events and reminded the community of available resources. Dr. Robinson emphasized the importance of respect, kindness, and compassion, urging everyone to hold these values in their hearts and take care of themselves and others.

## 5 Items for Approval

### 5.1 The Education Committee of Faculty Council recommends the approval of the following motion:

**“THAT the proposed revisions to the Temerty Medicine Guidelines for Appropriate Use of the Internet, Electronic Networking and Other Media and Statement on Protection of Personal Health Information be approved as submitted.”**

**Moved: B. Mori, Seconded: K. Zabjek**

Dr. Pier Bryden indicated that in early 2022, a Social Media Working Group (since repositioned as a Task Force) was convened by the Dean's Executive Committee to provide policy and operational recommendations that would help improve the social media user experience for Temerty Medicine community members. As part of its work, the Social Media Task Force (SMTF) reviewed relevant Temerty Medicine guidelines and statements to help ensure alignment with and appropriate reference to relevant University-level policies, guidelines and resources as well as reference to relevant external policies or guidelines (such as the CPSO Social Media Policy). The SMTF also considered possible gaps or areas for improvement/clarification in the relevant Temerty Medicine guidelines and statements.

The SMTF agreed that it would not be prudent to develop another Temerty Medicine guideline or statement specific to social media. Rather, the approach agreed upon by the SMTF was to incorporate more explicit language about social media into the following the following Temerty Medicine guidelines and statement:

- Guidelines for Appropriate Use of the Internet, Electronic Networking and Other Media
- Statement on Protection of Personal Health Information

The SMTF endorsed revisions to those two documents, as summarized in the proposal. A proposed revision common to these two documents is expansion of scope such that they apply to all Temerty Medicine learners, including those registered or participating in educational activities affiliated with the Temerty Medicine, who may during their studies, training and/or research activities have contact with patients and/or patient information. It is important to note that learner interactions with patients and patient information is a particular focus of the guidelines and statement under consideration, which distinguishes these two documents from relevant University-level policies, guidelines and resources with the Board of Medical Assessors but maintains separation between different elements of support.

The motion carried.

## **5.2 The Education and Research Committees of Faculty Council recommends the approval of the following motion:**

**“THAT the proposal to establish the Collaborative Centre for Climate, Health & Sustainable Care as an EDU-C at the University of Toronto be approved as submitted.”**

**Moved: B. Mori, Seconded: E. Esievoadje**

Dr. Fiona Miller indicated that this proposal is to establish a multi-disciplinary Extra-Departmental Unit Type C called the Collaborative Centre for Climate, Health & Sustainable Care, effective November 1, 2023. This unit will leverage the core strengths of its four founding health science faculties – the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, the Temerty Faculty of Medicine, the Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing, and the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy – and engage interested faculty and trainees across all University of Toronto divisions.

The unit will advance research and education, as well as application & impact in clinical care, health system management, health policy, and public health to meet the transformative challenges posed by global ecological change, and its social and structural determinants and sequelae.

Across the University of Toronto, there is growing attention to the role of the health sector in addressing these challenges.

Interest arises from the need to integrate knowledge about ecological or “planetary” health and sustainable and resilient health services & systems into health professional and health science education, necessitating support for curricular change, faculty development and continuing professional development.

Interest arises from growing awareness of knowledge and research needs and growing capacity, whether related to the delivery of sustainable and resilient health services; the socioeconomic and structural determinants of ecological decline, climate vulnerability and resilience potential; or the knowledge systems that offer alternatives to those underpinning the current compounding crises, including Indigenous Knowledge and the critical and heterodox social sciences.

Interest arises from the clear need to ensure linkages between research, education and changes in practice and policy.

Such work cannot be successfully addressed by a single discipline, department, or research group. There is, therefore, an unmet need for a home to bring together disparate groups to strengthen and advance the growing network of individuals and teams committed to advancing sustainable healthcare and ecological and planetary health.

The motion carried.

## **6 Standing Committee Annual Reports**

### **6.1 Medical Radiation Sciences Board of Examiners**

Dr. Sarah Rauth, Chair of the MRS Board of Examiners, was not able to attend but submitted the following written report which was read by the Speaker:

The Medical Radiation Sciences Board of Examiners reviews cases of students in academic difficulty and determines the appropriate course of action, which may include promotion, remediation, failure, suspension and dismissal.

The MRS Board of Examiners met five times in 2023. The BOE reviewed the progress of 25 students.

9 students received one or more didactic course failures and were placed on Remediation and required to take a Leave of Absence until the next offering of the failed course(s). 4 students received a clinical course failure, were placed on Remediation and required to retake the failed course.

8 students were granted an additional supplemental evaluation due to a program error where they were not given the required notice in advance of their 1st supplemental evaluation. All of these students were successful in their second supplemental evaluation.

Two students were referred to the Board of Medical Assessors to explore issues impacting academic performance. One of these students failed a clinical course and had their academic standing changed to Remediation with Probation after having previous academic difficulties. The other student was placed on a Leave of Absence due to numerous professionalism issues.

One student will have their status of Probation changed to Good Standing pending successful completion of the Fall 2023 semester and one student had their grade rounded to a pass to maintain consistency within the program.

## **7 Faculty Council Forum**

Dr. De Nil noted that, due to a scheduling issue, there would be no Forum but encouraged members to bring any suggested topics to himself, Deputy Speaker, Dr. Veronica Wadey, or Todd Coomber.

## **8 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned.