



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Medicine
Minutes of the April 24, 2017 meeting
4:00 p.m.
Red Room, Donnelly Centre

Members Present: L. De Nil (Speaker), T. Coomber, I. Witterick, S. Spadafora, R. Hegele, T. Bressman, P. Berger, R. Forman, D. Tweed, P. Kim, K. Hanneman, M. Farkouh, A. Levinson, C. Gillan, L. Tate, J. Davis, D. Dawson, S. Gabison, S. Wagner, J. Barkin, P. Poldre, L. Wilson, C. Chrystoja, S. Shakory, J. Bohnen, J. Maniate, M. Ostrowski, B. Steipe, A. Cochrane, R. Collins, C. Greenwood, M. Popovic, S. Saravanabavan, M. Roberts, R. Kirsch, D. Salonen, H. Shapiro, Z. Bismilla, G. Bandiera, T. Neff, A. Liu

Call to Order

The Speaker called the meeting to order and noted that there was a quorum.

1 Institutional Strategic Research Plan

Dr. Vivek Goel, Vice-President, Research & Innovation presented the Institutional Strategic Research Plan. Dr. Goel indicated that the mission of the Division of the Vice-President, Research & Innovation is to create a supportive environment so researchers, innovators, and learners can advance understanding and apply new knowledge. The Division is also working to support the President's three Institutional Priorities: reimagining undergraduate education, leveraging urban location, and international impact. The Strategic Research Plan is intended to reflect the breadth of U of T research, provide direction for how to support university scholarship, provide support and direction but not limit research programs or priorities, and meet internal and external community needs.

2017 marks the end of the current Institutional Strategic Research Plan. Developing a new plan for 2018-2023 will provide an opportunity to review research themes, assess emergent themes/areas, identify areas in need of support and innovation, and ensure external requirements continue to be met.

The current Institutional Strategic Research Plan includes Research Themes, Strategic Objectives, and Enabling Actions. The seven Research Themes are: Explore: Our place in the universe; Sustain: Humanity and the environment; Promote: Healthy people, communities, world; Engage: Mind, language, culture, values; Advance: Institutions, peace, and prosperity; Enable: Technologies for the 21st century; Build: Community and liveable societies.

The Strategic Objectives of the current plan are: 1) Strive for global leadership; 2) Address questions of local, provincial, national and international importance; 3) Provide world-class training through the integration of research and teaching; 4) Maximize the application of research and the innovation of creative concepts; 5) Facilitate intra- and inter-divisional collaboration within U of T and across institutions, Canada-wide and internationally; and 6) Create a culture of scholarship where interaction, collaboration and community are valued and facilitated.

The Enabling Actions of the current plan are: 1) Attract, fund, and retain the world's best talent; 2) Develop research leadership skills; 3) Encourage bold and innovative inquiry; 4) Advocate and communicate strength and successes; 5) Develop new integrated governance models for research across the university and with key partners; 6) Acquire and maintain state-of-the art infrastructure; 7) Maintain a competitive and sustainable research funding base; and 8) Develop performance indicators and benchmarks.

During the spring of 2017 there will be consultations and discussions on scope of the new plan. There will be special sessions for each of the academic divisions as well as town hall meetings at each campus and an online survey. During the summer a draft plan will be developed with feedback and revisions taking place in the fall. The plan will go to governance in the late fall with a final document being circulated in January 2018.

Dr. Goel invited members to complete the online survey at <http://www.research.utoronto.ca/ISRP> or direct any questions to vpri.reports@utoronto.ca.

2 Minutes of the previous meeting of Faculty Council – February 13, 2017

The minutes of the meeting of February 13, 2017 had been previously circulated. They were approved on a motion from J. Barkin and seconded by P. Berger. There was no business arising.

3 Report from the Speaker

The Speaker indicated that he did not have any items on which to report at this time.

4 Reports from the Dean's Office

4.1 Dean's Report

Dean Young commended faculty, staff, and students for their patience and cooperation during the ongoing asbestos issue in MSB. There were originally a number of labs affected but all are now open. Extra air testing has been done and will be ongoing to ensure safety.

Dean Young noted that there have been a number of successful external reviews including Otolaryngology, Ophthalmology, Medical imaging, Radiation Oncology, and Immunology. The Faculty of Medicine always performs well in national and international rankings.

There are currently two Chair searches underway for Anesthesia and Medical Biophysics. Michael Kidd has recently been appointed Chair of Family and Community Medicine.

4.2 Vice Dean, Research & Innovation

Dr. Richard Hegele indicated that the Faculty's updated research plan will feed into the University Plan as outlined by Dr. Goel and will be developed for the Fall.

Dr. Hegele thanked the Dean for update on the asbestos situation and noted that there have been no new occurrences of asbestos in the air samples that have been taken in MSB.

Dr. Hegele noted that the Naylor Report has been submitted to the government. Details will be made available. Dr. Roderick McInnes has been appointed as acting president for CIHR. Baycrest is seeking a new Vice President, Research.

Dr. Hegele outlined that the Faculty remains a research powerhouse nationally with more publication and citations than UBC and McGill combined.

4.3 Vice-Dean, Partnerships

Dr. Lynn Wilson reminded the members that her last report indicated that her office was working on a more formalized international strategy, which was presented to the Dean's Advisory Group last month. This report will focus on the key elements of this strategy.

The Faculty is committed to build and strengthen international relations in areas of strategic importance. This strategy is leading to significantly enhance international activity in ways beneficial to the faculty and its collaborators.

There are a number of reasons for the Faculty to aggressively pursue international relations: attract top faculty and graduate students; enhance student and faculty experience; increase diversity; enhance profile and reputation; build capacity; fulfill social responsibility; and generate revenue.

Dr. Wilson outlined three core objectives: Prepare; Discover; and Partner.

The Prepare objective focuses on student recruitment. The MD Program has filled 9 of 10 supernumerary spaces for international students. Once all 10 are filled, consideration will be given to add spaces. Internationally, there is a great deal of interest in the Faculty's course based Master's program. The MRS and PA Programs have interest in growing their programs by recruiting internationally.

The Discover objective focuses on academic collaboration. Dr. Wilson notes that a large amount of Faculty research is conducted with an international partner and her office is working to pursue research partnerships aligned with the Faculty's academic goals.

The Partner objective focuses on operational consulting. Dr. Wilson encourages departments to maintain and promote inter-departmental cooperation and model best practices from across the Faculty. In addition, the Faculty receives a great deal of requests internationally for consulting services and Dr. Wilson hopes to develop a suite of consultative services to meet this need.

Moving forward, Dr. Wilson hopes to identify faculty and staff to serve as leads for the tactics within each priority area and develop faculty champions with expertise in particular regions. There will be a 'best practices learning session' in Fall 2017 to look at successes and opportunities in international relations. Dr. Wilson and her office will be working with the Vice President, International to ensure that Medicine is well represented in the development of the University's overall international strategy.

4.4 Vice-Deans, Education

Dr. Allan Kaplan presented the report attached to these minutes beginning on page X.

5 Items for Approval

“THAT the proposal to establish a new Master of Health Science in Medical Genomics be approved as submitted.”

Moved: S. Spadafora, Seconded: B. Steipe

Dr. Leah Cowen indicated that Genomics is a rapidly growing area with broad reaching implications from bench to bedside. Technological advances are being pushed to the clinic, and the ability to generate and interpret genomic information will drive a new era of healthcare and patient management. With this progress, there is a growing knowledge gap between clinical practice and the discoveries stemming from genomescale research in human genetics. Advances in systems biology, including genomics, proteomics, and metabolomics, are outpacing the ability of undergraduate medical and scientific teaching to prepare medical and technical staff. Many practicing clinicians and laboratory personnel were trained before the development of modern genomic technologies, yet are faced with the need to generate, integrate, and interpret genetic and genomic data. To address this acute educational need, the Department of Molecular Genetics within the Faculty of Medicine, proposes a new program and associated degree, a professional Masters in Health Sciences (MHSc) in Medical Genomics. This new degree will provide medical trainees, research scientists, and laboratory professionals with the theory and practical knowledge necessary to incorporate genomics data into medical practice.

The MHSc in Medical Genomics is a professional Master's degree that is focused on providing directly actionable skills and knowledge to enable graduates of the program to extend their professional practice. This new program complements the existing graduate programs within the Department of Molecular Genetics, and

significantly extends the educational mission by reaching a previously untargeted student cohort. In contrast to the department's existing MSc/PhD graduate program, which is research and thesis-focused, the MHSc in Medical Genomics is a lecture and project-based curriculum. Although similar in title, the department's existing MSc in Genetic Counselling serves a much smaller student cohort with a programmatic focus on clinical genetic counselling and inborn genetic disorders. This MHSc in Medical Genomics is being developed for a new era of research and clinical science, providing professional and practical skills for a world where genetic and genomic data are routinely collected and analyzed across a wide range of patient populations and medical indications.

As a professional Master's degree, the MHSc in Medical Genomics is focused on teaching theory and practice, rather than the creation of new knowledge as is integral to research graduate degrees. This MHSc program's specific focus, orthogonal to existing curricula in the department, University, and across the province, will provide a means by which to provide professionally useful skills in Medical Genomics to students interested in immediate practical implementation.

The MHSc in Medical Genomics consists of a core set of lecture, discussion, and project based courses across a two year program duration. Lecture courses will be delivered by experts in the field comprising of faculty from the Molecular Genetics department and cross-appointed clinical faculty in conjunction with the Faculty of Law and Faculty of Public Health. In addition to lecture-based learning, students will participate in a capstone practicum during the final academic term of the program. For the practicum, students will be split into clinical (for undergraduate or post-graduate M.D.) and laboratory professional (for post-bachelor's) streams, with unique course work focused on patient interaction and laboratory data generation, respectively.

This professional Master's degree will be the first of its kind in Canada, and will join several elite institutions leading the charge in the United States. This program developed organically from consultation with various stakeholders in Toronto, including clinical training programs, hospital affiliated laboratories, academic research departments, and other University Faculties of Public Health and Law.

The Department of Molecular Genetics, leveraging existing partnerships with the McLaughlin Centre and the Centre for Genetic Medicine at SickKids, is uniquely suited to serve the growing need for graduate-level training in Medical Genomics. This MHSc will leverage the academic strengths of the Department of Molecular Genetics, with direct teaching contributions to this program by more than 25 departmental faculty. Although few comparable programs currently exist in North America, the competitive landscape is expected to change rapidly over the next several years. The proposal is to start this program in Fall 2018, targeting an entering class of 20 students and steady-state of 20 entrants per year.

The motion passed.

“THAT the physics and biology streams in the MSc and PhD curriculum in the Department of Medical Biophysics be modified as submitted.”

Moved: S. Shakory, Seconded: S. Spadafora

Dr. John Sled and Ms. Merle Casci indicated that the proposal will implement a modified curriculum for physics and biology stream students starting in September 2017. The modified curriculum will be structured in terms of modules, based on but also extending the existing courses, that are 0.25 credits each, so that students will have greater flexibility to mix-and-match modules between the streams to meet their training goals.

The total degree credit requirements will also be reduced for the MSc and PhD and harmonized between the two streams. A total of 6 modules (1.5 FCE) plus the seminar course (1.0 FCE) is required for the MSc (2.5 FCE) and an additional 4 modules (1.0 FCE) are required for the PhD (3.5 FCE). A highlight of the modified curriculum is that the program will begin with two mandatory modules taken jointly by students in the biology and physics streams, addressing scientific exposition, ethics and statistical methodology.

In practice, a student will take the required seminar course and two required modules plus 4 elective modules for MSc. A PhD student will take the required seminar course and two required modules plus 8 elective modules (4 of which may have been completed during MSc, if MSc Medical Biophysics student). The new modular structure of the programs also required the creation of five new courses included in the proposal.

The motion passed.

6 Standing Committee Annual Reports

6.1 Education Committee

Dr. Jerry Maniate thanked Dr. Ian Witterick, the Past Chair and Mr. Todd Coomber, the Faculty Affairs Officer, for their support during his first year as Chair. Dr. Maniate indicated that the year's business centred on renewing the Faculty's programs to prepare graduates for the current & future realities of health care.

The Committee recommended to Council the approval the two Major Program Modifications presented to Council today (Master of Health Science in Medical Genomics and the modifications to the MSc and PhD programs in Medical Biophysics).

On behalf of Council, the Education Committee approved a number of Minor Program Modifications:

New Graduate Courses

- "Visual Representation of Biomolecular Structure and Function" (MSC 2020H)
- "Applied Research in Immunology" (IMM 2551Y)
- "Graphic Medicine Seminar" (MSC 2022H)
- "Emerging Tools for Precision Medicine in Oncology" (MSC 1502H)
- "Advanced Topics in the Neural Basis for Sensation" (PSL1072H)
- "Evidence Based Practice in Physical Therapy" (PHT1016Y)

Amended Graduate Courses

- "Research Project in Immunology II" (IMM 1550Y) and "Research Project in Immunology III" (IMM 2550Y) amended
- "Fundamentals of Drug Discovery" course code (PHM 1122S) changed to JNP 1122H
- "Techniques in Immunology" (IMM 2041H) amended
- Nutritional Science graduate courses to the Dalla Lana School of Public Health

Other Minor Program Modifications

- Change in pre-requisites for admission to the Medical Radiation Sciences Program
- Change in pre-requisites for admission, required courses, and new electives for the Biomedical Communications MSc Program
- Change in required courses, and Decrease number of electives from 1.5 FCE to 1.0 FCE for the Applied Immunology MSc Program
- Amended Guidelines for the Assessment of Postgraduate Residents

New Awards

- Miriam Rossi Award for Health Equity in Undergraduate Medical Education

6.2 Research Committee

Dr. Mario Ostrowski indicated that the Research Committee had recommended for approval the proposed Constitutional and Bylaw amendments (Faculty Council approval postponed to Fall 2017) but had not met in person as there was no additional business to discuss. Dr. Ostrowski indicated the he will look to make better use of the Research Committee when there are no business items specifically directed to that group.

7 Faculty Council Forum

Dr. Allan Kaplan presented the Task Force Report on Research Integrity (included with these minutes beginning on page X).

8 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00pm