



TEMERTY FACULTY OF MEDICINE  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Faculty Council of the Temerty Faculty of Medicine  
Minutes of the February 7, 2022 meeting  
4:00 p.m.  
Via Zoom Videoconference

**Members Present:** Luc De Nil (Speaker), Martin Beaulieu, Justin Nodwell, Peeter Poldre, Fahad Qureshi, Pascal van Lieshout, Rita Kandel, Nana Hyung-Ran Lee, Vincent Tang, Gina John, Anne Agur, Mario Ostrowski, Andrew Wilde, Michael Farkouh, Paolo Campisi, Kamil Uludag, Todd Coomber, Modupe Tunde-Byass, George Elzawy, Alexander Dhaliwal, Evgueni Ivakine, Sarah Crome, Veronica Wadey, Prem Nichani, Erin Styles, Dev Chopra, Patricia Houston, Wusun Paek, Bojana Djordjevic, Suzan Schneeweiss, Lynn Wilson, Lisa Robinson, Douglas Templeton, Bob Bleakney, Arthur Mortha, Hosanna Au, Meg Connell, Paul Cantarutti, Marcus Law, Angus McQuibban, Catherine Coolens, Kyle Kirkham, Sarah Rauth, Christina MacMillan, Beverley Orser, Meredith Giuliani, Danny Enepekides

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**1 Call to Order**

**2 Minutes of the previous meeting of Faculty Council – October 18, 2021**

The minutes of the meeting of October 18, 2021 had been previously circulated. They were approved on a motion from M. Tunde-Byass and seconded by P. Campisi. There was no business arising.

**3 Report from the Speaker**

Dr. Luc De Nil noted that the Executive Committee received and reviewed on Faculty Council's behalf, external reviews for the Department of Family & Community Medicine, the Department of Molecular Genetics, the Department of Physical Therapy, the Department of Surgery, and the Rehabilitation Sciences Institute.

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

Acting Dean Patricia Houston turned introduced Dr. Justin Nodwell, whom she noted was previously the Chair of Biochemistry, as the Vice Dean, Research and Health Sciences Education.

Dr. Nodwell indicated that his portfolio has been newly created as a combination of the Graduate and Life Sciences Education office run by Vice Dean Alan Kaplan and the Research Offices run by Vice Dean Richard Hegele. These offices were closely related so merging them has created a opportunities for more efficient acting on various plans and strategies that that will benefit both. Since taking the position in May of 2021, much work has been done in consolidating the offices and resolving the duplication.

The mandate of the new office is to oversee the research enterprises and the educational enterprises at the undergraduate and graduate levels of the basic science and rehabilitation science sectors. This encompasses more than 17,000 undergraduate students, close to 3000 graduate students, and \$130 million in funded research. Faculty leads will be added to the portfolio. An Associate Dean for undergraduate education will provide leadership in maintaining existing programs and in the creation of new programs. This person will also serve as a liaison with the Faculty of Arts and Science. A director position will be added to provide leadership in some research initiatives and grant pre-review to try and bring up success rates at the CIHR and other agencies.

Strategic planning exercises will take place this summer with department Chairs. One such exercise will focus on raising the profile of the professional master's programs. Another initiative which is further along is creating a more fulsome approach to graduate student recruitment. Currently approximately 70% of graduate students come from Sothern Ontario with approximately 30% coming from the GTA. Ideally, the University

will have a more national profile. One effort to broaden the profile is a more personal touch to recruitment to combat the perception that U of T is big and impersonal.

One of the biggest challenges for graduated students coming to U of T is finances as Toronto is an expensive place to live. The graduate student stipend has received back-to-back 10% increases. In addition, there are a number of strategies being employed to assist graduate students. There is a series of \$10,000 entrance scholarships to attract more applicants as well as a large number of newly launched student awards. Current student awards that have not had great engagement may be converted to more traditional scholarships for top students or applicants.

For undergraduate students, there is an idea to put together a series of funded undergraduate research projects where students receive a space in one of the undergraduate residences on campus over the summer and work in one of the labs to get exposure to the University which ideally will make them more likely to come back for graduate school.

Another program that has been very successful in Molecular Genetics that will be adapted Faculty wide is an ambassadors program which will send graduate students to information fairs at other universities across the country to provide more information about the programs offered. This will also be an opportunity to provide information about the new entrance scholarships and the efforts being made to offset the cost of living.

Finally, the Faculty has been building EDI into graduate student recruitment through the Temerty Pathway Project. This is an effort to recruit students directly out of high school into undergraduate programs in the Faculty and make sure that they have some first year point of contact where a small cohort of students can get to know everyone in that cohort and get to know their professors and make a personal connection with them. This first year mentorship can help students understand what a career in research all about give them exposure opportunities they may not otherwise have. They will be helped to understand what it takes to get into graduate school and that students who don't get into the graduate programs typically don't have research experiences.

## **5 Standing Committee Annual Reports**

### **5.1 UME Board of Examiners**

Dr. Bob Bleakney noted that no students were presented to the Board from Foundations (the first two years of the MD program) which is down from the one or two students that might typically be reviewed. Foundations has provided significantly fewer cases annually than Preclerkship, which it replaced. Preclerkship might have seen up to 13 students presented annually. Foundations features multi point assessments with very frequent, low stakes mastery exercises has helped identify areas of concern earlier and the Student Progress Committee has been able to assist struggling students with focused learning plans with remediation from the Board of Examiners as a last resort.

Clerkship has always been the source of the majority of students coming to the BOE due to students having both clinical and academic responsibilities. This year 37 clerkship students were presented to the BOE which is up from 2019-2020 which had 23 and 2018-2019 which had 26. Although this is a large jump over the last two years some recent highs saw 49 students in 2014 and 46 students in 2017 so this year has been fairly average. Overall, less than 4% of the student body was presented to the BOE in 2020-2021. Historically, the vast majority of students who come to the Board have been presented for failure in mastery exercises while this year a few students failed clinical rotations which is very unusual. This may be due to receiving less exposure to clinical medicine through COVID which led to difficulty on clinical rotations.

The Board has been passing more motions to rescind failure on examinations due to assessment by accessibility services. When the Board receives new information that a student should have had

accommodations in place for examinations, the Board rescinds the failure, and the student is permitted to repeat the exam with no penalty.

The Board continues to meet virtually which has been convenient and seems to be good for attendance and still allows for a very fulsome discussion. There are nine faculty members on the Board with four of them coming to the end of their term on September 30. The four new members are from Medicine, Psychiatry, Family Medicine, and Pediatrics which has helped to keep a mix of clinical specialties on the Board. The Board also has two student members, the president and the past President of MedSoc. Dr. Bleakney thanked the members of the Board for their hard work and their advocacy for students throughout the year and singled out the student members of the Board who provide an important student perspective. Dr. Bleakney also thanked Todd Coomber, the Faculty Affairs Officer, and Hana Lee, the Faculty Registrar who keep the Board running smoothly.

## **5.2 Appeals Committee**

The Speaker indicated that Dr. Blake Papsin was not able to attend the meeting today but reports that there have been no appeals since last year's report.

## **6 Faculty Council Forum**

The Faculty Council forum did not occur due to the availability of the scheduled presenter amidst the current surge in COVID cases. Deputy Speaker, Dr. Paulo Campisi, led a discussion on potential topics for future Forums. The topics proposed were:

- The impact COVID has had on placements and medical electives for clinical and rehab students.
- Guidance on living with COVID in the university setting
- Anti-black and anti-indigenous racism and what is being done to combat.
- Climate Sustainability in Healthcare
- The death of education as we know it – online learning and back again.

The Speaker encouraged members reach out to Dr. Campisi or Mr. Todd Coomber with any additional suggestions that can be discussed by the Executive Committee for future meetings.

## **7 Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned.