



# UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

## FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Medicine  
Minutes of the May 5, 2014 meeting  
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
Red Room, Donnelly Centre

**Members Present:** L. De Nil (Speaker), P. Poldre, R. Cockerill, P. Hamel, A. Cochrane, G. O’Leary, A. Jakubowski, A. Buchan, S. Spadafora, M. Connell, T. Coomber, J. Hall, S. Huynh, E. Yao, H. Jo, L. Murji, M. Zyweil, N. Zilbert, I. Mihailovic, D. McKnight, G. Bandiera, T. Neff, A. Gotlieb, H. Jo, M. Giuliani, L. Manchul, I Witterick, A Martin, R. Forman, J. Rosenfield, G. Fantus, J. Rutka, P. Berger, A Bonnyman, A Rachlis, J. Barkin

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### Call to Order

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

#### 1. Minutes of the previous meeting of Faculty Council – February 10 , 2014

The minutes of the meeting of February 10, 2014 had been previously circulated. They were approved on a motion from G. Bandiera and seconded by G. Fantus. There was no business arising.

#### 2. Report from the Speaker

##### 3.1 Report on External Reviews

The Speaker noted that, as per the Faculty Council By-Laws, the Executive Committee received and reviewed External Reviews on behalf of Council. Reports were received for the Centre for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety, the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, the Department of Medicine, the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, and the Department of Physical Therapy. The reports included both the report of the external reviewers as well as the Chair’s and the Dean’s responses to the reviews..

##### 3.2 2014-2015 Standing Committee Membership

The Speaker presented the Faculty Council Standing Committee membership list for 2014-2015. He noted that there were still a couple of vacancies and asked any interested members to provide their name to the Faculty Affairs Officer.

#### 3. Reports from the Dean’s Office

##### 4.1 Report from the Dean’s Office

Dean Whiteside noted the successful retreat recently which featured a number of international speakers. The Dean indicated that a lot work was ongoing with respect to the strategic plan and that most academic units now had their own clear plan. These individual strategic plans will help the Faculty achieve the overarching goals that it has set. Work remains, however, and the final report from the retreat will be available shortly. The Dean emphasized, as one example, the importance of the engagement of the partner hospitals.

##### 4.2 Vice-Dean, Research & International Relations

Vice Dean Alison Buchan noted that there is a new national committee with the goal of increasing the number of high-profile awards received by Canadian researchers. Currently most of these awards go to researchers from the US, UK and Japan. Dr. Buchan noted the larger populations of these nations but also noted that Australia, despite its smaller population, outperforms Canada. This committee has established an office in CIHR in order to help the competitiveness for high-level awards.

Dr. Buchan also noted that International Relations has a high profile in China, South America, Europe and Africa with respect to research. An integrated research initiative is being developed and will be circulated to the Faculty Council Research Committee in the next month or so.

#### 4.3 Vice-Deans, Education

Dr. Jay Rosenfield presented the report that is included beginning on page 6 of these minutes.

### 4. New Business

#### 4.1 Graduate Education Committee

##### 4.1.1 Master of Health Science in Translational Research

The following was moved by R. Cockerill and seconded by A. Gotlieb:

*“THAT the proposal to establish a new Master of Health Science in Translational Research in the Health Sciences be approved as submitted.”*

Dr. Allan Kaplan indicated that the Institute of Medical Science’s (IMS) first strategic plan, which was developed two years ago, had the vision for the IME to become global leaders in the training of translational health research. This program is the first major step toward that goal. This is a professional program with no similar programs in Canada and very few in the US and worldwide. The program fills a void because 80% of graduates from scientifically rigorous PhD programs are unable to get a job in academia. This program aims to create a new kind of health care professional whose knowledge will bridge specialized areas and who has the skills to translate research and knowledge from one context to another. The program will begin with 10 students in its first year but will work toward its full capacity of 20. The students who are to be recruited into this program will be from a variety of backgrounds. This program is not intended for students directly out of their undergraduate degree but rather Master’s and PhD students who have a substantial research background. The program will culminate in a capstone project that will provide an idea to be translated into a product that can be taken out into the world.

Dr. Paul Hamel expressed concerns raised by the Research Committee about the nature of this, and other programs of a similar nature, changing the research environment of the University of Toronto. Dr. Kaplan indicated that this program is not intended as a substitute for rigorous research training and that applicants would be expected to have that training prior to entry. This is seen as an addition to, rather than a substitution, of rigorous research training. Dr. Joseph Ferenbok further emphasized that, although the research aspect to this program may be different, it is still recognizable as research and reiterated that this program will target applicants that have already received research training.

The motion passed.

##### 4.1.2 PhD Collaborative Program in Human Development

The following was moved by R. Cockerill and seconded by A. Buchan:

*“THAT the proposal to establish a new graduate PhD collaborative program in Human Development be approved as submitted.”*

Dr. Helen Rodd indicated that the proposed collaborative program in Human Development is a multidisciplinary program that will allow students to understand the relationship various elements of medicine and society and how they impact young people. He noted that this is not a 'free standing' PhD program but is a course that goes along with existing PhD programs to create a transdisciplinary approach to the early years of life. The first 2000 days of life are critical to the development of human beings and this program will bring together a variety of disciplines.

The motion passed.

## **4.2 Research Committee**

### **4.2.1 Global Institute for Psychosocial, Palliative and End-of-Life Care**

The following was moved by P. Hamel and seconded by A. Gotlieb:

*“THAT the proposal to establish the Global Institute for Psychosocial, Palliative and End-of-Life Care as an EDU:C be approved as submitted.”*

Dr. Gary Rodin noted that palliative care refers to the care of patients with life-threatening disease, with a focus on relief of pain and other physical symptoms, and of psychological and spiritual distress. It includes end-of-life care and bereavement and is applicable to patients and families early in the course of a terminal illness. It works in conjunction with other therapies and treatments intended to prolong life. Dr. Rodin noted that palliative care should be a central component of care in patients with progressive or life-threatening disease but that the skills and resources necessary for the delivery of palliative and end-of-life care have not kept pace with other aspects of medicine. The proposal is to establish a Global Institute of Psychosocial, Palliative and End-Of-Life Care (GIPPEC) as an EDU:C devoted to promoting and developing interdisciplinary research that addresses the medical, psychological, social, legal, ethical, cultural and religious problems related the palliative care of people with advanced and terminal disease. The Faculty of Medicine will be the lead faculty and the Institute will draw from the Departments of Medicine, Psychiatry, Paediatrics, and Family and Community Medicine). The other faculties involved are the Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing, the Factor Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, the Faculty of Law, and the Faculty of Arts and Science (departments of Philosophy, Sociology, Anthropology, and the Study of Religion).

The motion passed.

## **4.3 Executive Committee**

### **4.3.1 Master of Health Science in Translational Research**

The following was moved by A. Gotlieb and seconded by P. Hamel:

*“THAT the proposal to transfer of the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation from its current home faculty (Medicine) to a new home faculty of the Dalla Lana School of Public Health effective July 1, 2014 be approved as submitted.”*

Dr. Adelstein Brown indicated that the transfer of the Institute of Health Policy, Management, and Evaluation (IHPME) from the Faculty of Medicine to the Dalla Lana School of Public Health (DLSPH) reflects the long collaboration between the two but in no way diminishes the relationship IHPME has with the Faculty of Medicine. Dr. Brown noted that the academic mission behind the transfer is to create a centre for health policy and health services scholarship at the University of Toronto but he reminded Council that IHPME remains an EDU:A and will always be open to collaboration with the Faculty of Medicine.

The motion passed.

### **4.3.1 Faculty of Medicine Constitution**

The following was moved by P. Hamel and seconded by A. Gotlieb:

*“THAT the proposed amendments to the Faculty of Medicine Constitution be approved as submitted.”*

The Speaker opened the discussion by noting that two of the three proposed amendments are housekeeping items and are not urgent at this time. They represent changes to the composition of the Faculty that have resulted in a change to the make-up of Council (the closure of the Banting and Best Department of Medical Research and the transfer of the IHPME to the DLSPH).

The third amendment is to include Post-Doctoral Fellows as members of Council. This idea was first raised last year during a major revision to the Faculty Council Constitution and By-Laws. At that time, we were advised against including this as an amendment to the Constitution by the Governing Council Secretariat due to ongoing unionization of Post-Doctoral Fellows and the potential impact this amendment could have on the University.

At the request of the Executive Committee of Council, a constitutional amendment to include one PDF representative was circulated to the Standing Committees of Council. Three of 4 Standing Committees did not support the amendment going forward at this time and preferred to wait for further feedback. The Executive Committee opted to have the issue presented to Faculty Council as a whole for consideration.

The Speaker noted that the Secretary of Governing Council, Mr. Louis Charpentier, has advised that this Constitutional Amendment is not likely to be approved by Academic Board and almost certainly would not be ratified by the Executive Committee of Governing Council. During the most recent meeting with Mr. Charpentier, he indicated that there is currently no University-wide definition of 'Post-Doctoral Fellows' and this would need to be included in the Constitution prior to expecting approval. This definition would need to be established jointly by the Provost's Office and the Governing Council.

I want to be clear that an approval of this Constitution at Faculty Council today should be considered a symbolic action due to its likelihood of being ratified but that we continue to work with Governing Council on the campus-wide establishment of PDFs as members of divisional councils.

Dr. Avrum Gotlieb noted that the definition of PDFs likely depends on the current negotiations the University is having with the newly unionized PDFs. The Speaker noted that it was pointed out to Mr. Charpentier that, given the current make-up of Council, the unionization of a group is not a factor that dictates membership. Mr. Charpentier indicated that context for the definition would have to look at the University as a whole rather than just Medicine. Dr. Gotlieb inquired as to how this might impact the PDFs who are located in the hospitals. The Speaker indicated that this would only impact the campus based PDFs. Dr. Paul Hamel indicated that medical residents are represented on Council but are located in the hospitals. He expressed concern that the University's current position amounts to not allow a specific group of members of the academic community to have a voice on an academic body.

Dr. David McKnight asked the speaker to confirm that Council, should they approve this motion, should not anticipate having the Constitution approved at all the necessary levels. The Speaker confirmed that his understanding was that it would not be likely though confirmed that this did not mean that it was impossible. Dr. McKnight indicated support for approving the Constitution in principle, but that this is not the motion currently on the table. The Speaker indicated that without a definition of PDF, even an approval in principle is somewhat moot.

A comment from the floor pointed out that should the motion be approved as it stands and, at a later date, a definition for PDFs is established, this Council would have tied its hands if it disagrees with the final definition. It was proposed that the item on the inclusion of the PDF representative be removed from the Constitutional amendment.

The Speaker called the current motion to a vote.

The motion failed.

The Speaker suggested that the proposed Constitutional amendments be modified to remove the PDF representative.

The following was moved by A. Gotlieb and seconded by A. Buchan:

*“THAT the proposed amendments to the Faculty of Medicine Constitution be approved as amended.”*

The motion passed.

## **5. Standing Committee Annual Reports**

### **5.1 PGME Board of Examiners**

Dr. Stephanie Brister was not in attendance but submitted the written report which is available on page 18 of these minutes.

Dr. Sal Spadafora, Vice Dean, PGME, noted that the PGME Board of Examiners is a very hardworking board and he wished to express his gratitude for their hard work and dedication.

### **5.2 Education Committee**

Dr. Ian Witterick noted that the Education Committee made recommendations for the approval of proposals on a Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship program, Guidelines for Procedure of the Faculty of Medicine Appeals Committee, and the transfer of the IHPME to the DLCPH which were all approved by Council. He also noted that the Education Committee declined to put forward a motion on the proposed amendments to the Faculty of Medicine Constitution. Dr. Witterick noted that the Education Committee covers UME, PGME, the MRS Program and the BScPA Program. He noted that all have recently gone through accreditation and performed very well.

### **5.3 Research Committee**

Dr. Paul Hamel noted that the Research Committee expressed concerns at some of the program proposals that have recently come forward which were felt to move the University away from its position as a research-intensive institution. The Research Committee feels that there should be a high level discussion within the Faculty regarding the direction of graduate education. Dr. Hamel thanked the Faculty Affairs Officer, Todd Coomber, for the administrative support provided to the Committee.

### **5.4 Graduate Education Committee**

Dr. Rhonda Cockerill noted that the Graduate Education Committee made recommendations for the approval of a proposal on the closure of the Clinical Pharmacology field of study and the opening of a new a new field of study, Applied Clinical Pharmacology. In addition, the Graduate Education Committee made the two recommendations presented at today's meeting.

## **6. Faculty Council Forum**

The Faculty Council Forum was presented on the topic of Natural Justice and the Board of Examiners.

## **7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45pm