



# UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

## FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Faculty Council of the Faculty of Medicine  
Minutes of the October 22, 2012 meeting  
4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
MSB 2317

- Members Present:** K. Pritzker (Speaker), M. Hanson, I. Witterick, C. Woodland, A. Buchan, C. Whiteside, D. McKnight, V. Kurdyak, C. Turenko, S. Langlands, H. Carnahan, S. Spadafora, K. Berg, C. Streutker, J. MacDougall, J. Barkin, R. Rumantir, A. Jakubowski, S. Verma, D. Anastakis, C. Wang, A La Delfa, P. Gaidhu, A. Rachlis, P. Houston, R. Bazinet, D. Templeton, M. Shandling, H. Shapiro, N. Rosenblum, P. Hamel
- Regrets:** H. Harnett, D. Balaban, E. Fernando, E. Spicer, A. Hunt, J. Tran, G. McSheffrey, J. Bohnen,
- Guests:** M. Connell, T. Coomber (Recorder)

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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 – June 18, 2012

The minutes of the meeting of June 18, 2012 had been previously circulated. They were approved on a motion from C. Woodland and seconded by I. Witterick.

#### 2. Report from the Speaker

Dr. Pritzker indicated that the Agenda Committee has been discussing how items are brought before council in order to allow the Standing Committees appropriate input. He noted that the primary matter is scheduling of items earlier to ensure Committees see the items in advance of their final draft coming for approval.

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

##### 3.1 Report from the Dean's Office

Dean Whiteside indicated that the UME accreditation has been received and that the UME program has been fully accredited for 8 years. There are three items that feel short of the standard but that these items are already being addressed. She thanks all members of the faculty and the students for their participation in accreditation. She noted that the report will be circulated.

Dean Whiteside noted that the official launch of the Boundless campaign occurred in September. She noted that the Faculty is more than half way to its goal of \$500 million. The priorities for funding (in order) are funding for students, faculty and infrastructure.

The Dean noted that she would soon be leaving with a delegation to Shanghai, Beijing and Hong Kong to build international relations with top Chinese universities. She thanks Dr. Alison Buchan and Ms. Meg Connell for coordinating the trip.

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

Dr. Buchan distributed copies of the Faculty of Medicine Research Report. She noted that the total research funding across the fully affiliated hospitals is \$900 million. She indicated that 100% of this funding directly goes toward research. She invited the Council to read about a few of the Faculty's outstanding researchers presented in the document.

### 3.3 Vice-Deans, Education

Dr. Spadafora introduced Dr. Patricia Houston as the acting Vice Dean UME. He noted the success of the UME accreditation. Dr. Spadafora announced that Dr. Martin Schreiber has been appointed as the Director, Undergraduate Medical Education Curriculum and reminded the Council that Dr. Schreiber oversaw the accreditation process and deserves the Faculty's thanks.

Dr. Spadafora noted that the 2012-2017 PGME Strategic Plan and 2011-2012 Annual Report have been distributed and is available. He noted that the PGME Strategic Plan was written to support the wider Faculty of Medicine Strategic Plan. Dr. Spadafora indicated that the PGME Office continues to prepare for the Royal College accreditation on April 7-12, 2013.

Dr. Spadafora indicated that the Office of CEPD will also be undergoing accreditation which will occur March 20-22, 2013. He also noted that the CEPD annual report will be released next month and will be available on the CEPD Website.

Dr. Spadafora is preparing to launch into a period of self-study within the first six months of 2013 and following that, will be engaging in a longer term Strategic Planning exercise over the next six months. A new phase of Graduate Enrolment Expansion was launched for September 2012 with specific targets to increase capacity and encourage investment in graduate programs. The 2012 numbers for graduate enrolment show that the doctoral stream numbers did not meet their targets while the professional master's stream surpassed their targets. Recruitment for September 2013 has now begun to attempt to meet our targets.

Dr. Spadafora indicated that the Office of Integrated Medical Education has published its first Annual Report which can be found on their website. He noted that the Education Vice Deans have created a new website listing Medical Education Related Policies, Procedures and Guidelines stemming from the work of the T-IME Policy and Procedures Working Group.

Nominations for Education and Teaching Awards

## 4. Faculty Council Forum - Report of the Task Force on Physician Scientist Education

Dr. Norm Rosenblum, Chair of the Task Force on Physician Scientist Education and Associate Dean, Physician Scientist Training, indicated that the Task Force was established to review physician scientist education at the University. Dr. Rosenblum noted that the Task Force was composed of Brian Corman, Dean, School of Graduate Studies; Alison Buchan, Jay Rosenfield, Sal Spadafora, Avrum Gotlieb, Vice-Deans in the Faculty of Medicine; Directors and Chairs of various departments; a cross-section of clinician scientists (old/young, male/female); and two MD/PhD Students. He noted that prior to the convening of the Task Force, there was an environmental scan of physician scientist training programs in North America and the United Kingdom. He noted that, while physician scientists contribute greatly to human health, the pipeline to create physician scientists is threatened.

Dr. Rosenblum noted that the strengths of the U of T program include its reputation in Canada and the world, the quality of the programs and their learners, the alignment between the Faculty and physician scientist training, and the research outputs generated by the trainees. He noted the weaknesses include variable student satisfaction; a lack of integration between research and clinical training; the perception of what a career as a physician scientist entails; and the length of training and corresponding debt load. He

noted, however, that there are a number of opportunities within the current landscape. Specifically, the medical education landscape is changing with the creation of more tailored, individualized and competency-based training pathways. Dr. Rosenblum noted there will soon be CIHR-funded clinician scientist training programs which will focus national attention on physician scientist training. He also indicated that existing model of MD/PhD training is successful and allows for innovation. Finally, there is an opportunity for private funding to support physician scientist training.

Dr. Rosenblum indicated the taskforce developed 7 recommendations from their findings. He indicated that the Faculty should establish an Integrated Physician Scientist Training Pathway to satisfy all LCME/CACMS/CFPC, Royal College and School of Graduate Studies accreditation requirements. The Faculty should provide opportunities for learners to integrate greater scientific content into their curriculum to encourage the pursuit of careers in the sciences. The Faculty should develop more graduate level training opportunities for its learners, including the establishment of new joint programs with partners outside of the Faculty of Medicine. The Faculty should establish a mentorship program aimed at supporting successful physician scientist careers. The Faculty should facilitate the development of physician scientist career development and retention across the Faculty. The Faculty should engage with its partners in the AFMC, ACAHO, and the RCPSC to establish a national model of training for various potential careers as a physician scientist. The Faculty should establish an implementation committee to act on the other recommendations of the Task Force.

## **5. New Business**

### **5.1 Education and Research Committees**

The Report of the Task Force on Physician Scientist Education was presented as the Faculty Council Forum

The following was moved by I. Witterick and seconded by S. Spadafora:

“THAT the Report of the Task Force on Physician Scientist Education be approved as submitted”

The motion passed.

### **5.2 Education Committee**

The Speaker noted that the Guidelines Regarding Infectious Diseases and Occupational Health for Applicants to and Learners of the Faculty of Medicine Academic Programs were being moved for deferral to the next meeting. Dr. Ian Witterick indicated that the Education Committee had approved the document pending a legal opinion. This legal opinion has not yet been received. Dr. Spadafora indicated that the concerns of the Education Committee are appropriate and that the document is being reviewed by Kathy MacDonald and will also be presented for review in relation to FIPPA.

The following was moved by I. Witterick and seconded by S. Spadafora:

“THAT the Guidelines Regarding Infectious Diseases and Occupational Health for Applicants to and Learners of the Faculty of Medicine Academic Programs be deferred to the meeting of February 11, 2013”

The motion passed.

The following was moved by I. Witterick and seconded by P Houston:

“THAT the passing grade for courses in the Bachelor of Science Physician Assistant degree program be changed from 73% to 60%.”

The Speaker invited Dr. Maureen Gottesman, Medical Director, Physician Assistant Professional Degree Program to request that the passing grade for credit courses in the BScPA program be changed from 73% to

60%. She noted that this would be in line with the grading of Undergraduate Medical Education. She indicated that the program is modeled after the UME program but that she chose to use 73% as a pass as this is the cut off for a "B" in the University's grading policy. Dr. Gottesman noted that the current passing grade has influenced the grading of courses in that the evaluations are not as challenging and the grades might not actually reflect competency. As the passing grade is so high, the actual range of grades is limited and by lowering the pass to 60% the passing grades could be more varied and would help the faculty identify students in difficulty. The proposal is to have the passing grade changed for students entering in January 2013. Current students would not be affected by the change and would continue to have a passing grade of 73%.

The motion passed.

### **5.3 Education, Research, and Graduate Education Committees**

The following was moved by I. Witterick and seconded by D. McKnight:

"THAT the Guidelines for Relations with Industry in MD Training be approved as submitted"

Dr. McKnight reminded the council that this report has been in the works for a long time and previously included research and postgraduate education. The central University had a problem with the development of such a wide-reaching document. As such, this document was developed only to include students in the UME program. This was deemed a priority as having such a document is required by the UME accreditation standards. Dr. McKnight indicated that the University of Toronto was a leader in this area in 2007 when this initiative was started but that several other schools have now approved similar documents. He noted that the standards are good guidelines for members of faculty to avoid undue influence and conflicts of interest.

Pinky Gaidhu, 1T5 class president, indicated students are concerned that the Guidelines have overlap with the cooperate sponsorship policy in that the themes and principles are similar to that document to which students are strongly opposed. She noted that there is a meeting scheduled for Friday with David McKnight to discuss the cooperate sponsorship policy and expressed concern that the discussion to approve this document is taking place in advance of that meeting. Dr. McKnight disagreed and indicated that the documents were very different. The Guidelines for Relations with Industry relate to educational events and programs run by the Faculty and the engagement of faculty with corporate stakeholders. He noted that there is limited impact on students most prominently the relationship between pharmaceutical reps and students. The cooperate sponsorship guidelines cover a different set of circumstances – specifically social events. He noted that the Guidelines for Relations with Industry in MD Training are fairly standard but there are activists in this area that believe these guidelines are too lenient. Dr. McKnight noted that there has been a great deal of student involvement in the development of this document.

Ms. Gaidhu was concerned that the wording was too similar between the two documents to consider them separate. Dr. McKnight noted that the wording quoted in the Guidelines for Relations with Industry actually apply to faculty not students. He noted that there is strong evidence to believe that behavior of physicians is changed based on certain industry sponsorship and this risks putting the interests of the physician's or corporation's interests ahead of the patient. He noted if there was no correlation the corporation wouldn't engage in these activities. Dr. Jack Barkin expressed concern that the document implied that physicians have no integrity and can be bought for a slice of pizza. He also expressed concern that this initiative was one of optics for the sake of the press. Dr. McKnight indicated that the evidence supports the notion of influence and often individuals are unaware of having been influenced.

Dr. McKnight agreed that both documents talk about corporate sponsorship but were developed independently and for different reasons. He considers them very different documents. Ms. Gaidhu indicated that the students aren't asking that the document never be approved but would like more time to be consulted on the document. Dr. McKnight reiterated that student have been consulted on the document's development but that it wasn't this group of students. He noted again that the document has been in development since 2007.

Dr. Buchan suggested that the discussion of the motion be deferred until after the students have had a chance to meeting with Dr. McKnight to discuss their concerns.

The following was moved by A. Buchan and seconded by S. Verma:

“THAT discussion on the above proposed motion on the Guidelines for Relations with Industry in MD Training be deferred.”

The motion passed.

#### **5.4 Education, Research, Graduate Education and CEPD Committees**

The following was moved by I. Witterick and seconded by S. Verma:

“THAT the Faculty of Medicine Faculty Council By-Laws be approved as submitted”

There was no discussion on this item.

The motion passed.

### **6. Standing Committee Annual Reports**

#### **6.1 UME Board of Examiners**

Dr. Blake Papsin noted that the BOE has developed its operation over the last two years as there has been an adjustment to the new curriculum and he was new to the Chair role. The Board has looked at areas of weakness and has worked to improve them. The Board is now meeting more frequently in order to deal with student issues in ‘real time’ to remediate issues more quickly. There were 51 students who required formal remediation and an additional 10 who required some other Board motion. There were two students who failed the first year, two who failed the third year and one who failed the fourth year. These failures were primarily the result of two or more major courses failed in the given year where remediation was deemed to be inappropriate. He notes the numbers not presented are students requiring professionalism remediation or those being referred to the Board of Medical Assessors.

#### **6.2 MRS Board of Examiners**

Dr. Richard Tsang reminded the Board of the details of the MRS Program and noted that there were four meetings this year with an average of 2-5 students discussed per meeting. Dr. Tsang noted that in his six years as Chair there has been a decrease in the number of students being brought to the Board and a decrease in appeals of the Board’s decisions. He reminded the Council that the Nuclear Medicine program has suspended admissions to the number of students in the program will drop over the next few years. He noted that there were just over 100 students graduated in the Spring and he indicated that there are about a dozen students in remediation.

### **7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35pm