
SCHOOL COUNCIL Draft MINUTES OF MEETING
March 13, 2024
1-3 p.m.

Present: Alex Hoagland, Arjumand Siddiqi, Audrey Laporte, Bev Essue, Borianna Miloucheva, Brice Kiumi, C. Shen, Camelia Zakaria, Carol Strike, Daniel Grace, Dionne Gesink, Ellen Sokoloff, Emily Seto, Erica Di Ruggiero, Hailey Banack, Jennifer Brooks, Jennifer Gibson, Jeremy Scott, Kazumi Tsuchiya, Kevin Thorpe, Kristina Meriel, Kuan Liu, Lissa Ceolin, Mavic Galicia, Mohammad Akbari, Nadia Ismail, Obinna Ezeani, Paul Bozek, Pierre Lee, Pierrette Buklis, Rafal Kustra, Roberta Timothy, Robin Hurst, Ross Upshur, Sara Allin, Shaza Fadel, Sue Bondy, Tedd Konya, Ted Witek, Tina Smith, Wendy Lou, Whitney Berta, Zara Shakeri Hossein Abad

1. **Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement.** Paul Bozek checked for quorum, called the meeting to order and did the acknowledgment of the University's use of traditional land.
2. **Presentation/Approval of the Agenda**—Paul noted the misnumbering on the agenda;. The agenda was approved with corrections noted.

Correction: It was decided/agreed that the three Collaborative Specialization Closures major mod tagged for approval will be presented for information only as they will need to go through approval process (VPAP).

Jennifer Brooks motioned to approve, seconded by Jeremy Scott. Agenda approved.

3. **Review/Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting.** Paul presented the minutes from October 19 meeting. No comments/questions. Minutes were approved.

4. **Business Arising:**
Membership Slate

Paul shared that additions to the membership slate particularly for new students have been made, some vacancies still exist. Audrey is seeking out volunteers from IHPME. Sue shared that the slate is challenging to fix in June because faculty contracts usually end in June, so it seems better to fill vacancies around September. Vacancies in OAA's (Other academic appointees). A question on representation of EDU-Cs was raised.

Paul noted that a review/update of the Constitution and ByLaws is underway and made a call to join the working group thus the question about (EDU-C and other) representation will be looked into.

5. **New Business:**

DLSPH Guidelines for Monitoring Good Academic Standing and Satisfactory Academic Progress

Dionne reminded the attendees that this guideline has been discussed at length, consultations done for the last two years and it is now in its final form.

There were no questions and it was put to a vote. POLL results: 31 in favour, 2 abstained.
Passed.

School Council Education and Student Awards Committee

Sue Bondy reported on the minor modification courses approved at the SCESAC meeting of Feb 15 2024: (Mavic emailed Sue Feb 4 to ask for the final report)

Proposed closures for information only.

1. Tina Smith spoke to HSR Research Collaborative Specialization: Once funding ceased, there was less appetite. Students enrolled in the CS are also outside of IHPME and the member units. Diminishing interest, no students from the participating units compels the decision to recommend closure.
2. Blake Poland spoke to CS in Comm Devt. started in 2000 with partnership from other departments, housed in DLSPH. Blake is retiring in July 2024, unfortunately, there is no other department or in DLSPH that would run the CS. Dionne added that it was a really successful program and thanked Blake Poland for the two decades he dedicated to leading the specialization. This will go through the approval process before it is sent to the members for an e-vote.
3. Dionne spoke to CS in Public Health Policy as Rob Schwartz was not available. This was a very popular program in both PHS and IHPME and other divisions in the University. Rob is retiring and there are no resources or personnel to take this over.

A question about re-visiting CS was asked by Beverley Essue. Dionne shared that we are not categorically closing doors on future CS but that the School will need to be strategic to ensure a balance is struck (resources, cost, benefits). Most of the time, the CS are a “labour of love.”

Associate Dean, Academic Affairs update. Dionne provided an update on the UTQAP external review which happened in 2023. A response to the report was prepared and sent to VPAP following consultations in the School (faculty, students, stakeholders). Recommendations from this response will be germs for the next strategic/academic planning that will be started shortly. Once approved by VPAP, this will be made available on SharePoint (Steini presents this at a committee meeting on academic programs on April 10, 2024).

PHSA update. Alex Mendell provided update.

- Survey went out to the PhD students on office space needs and availability
- Fireside chat during orientation week to discuss social justice & public health hosted by the advocacy committee

- Black History Month: conducted anti-oppression workshop, guided tours of the UofT Art Museum which was hosting an exhibit on black and indigenous history
- Mental health forum, neuro diversity and community engagement – results from these will be shared.
- Communications team sharing tips on practicum and job applications
- End of year gala, yoga sunshine therapy to fight stress, nutrition week

IHPME GSU update. Anjali Kalra MHSc provided updates which included: Research & Impact Day in April—abstracts are encouraged to be submitted by the deadline. Townhall on April 4 in the IHPME lounge

a. EDU-C proposal: Collaborative Centre for Climate, Health & Sustainable Care

Ross Upshur (on behalf of Fiona Miller) did a brief presentation on the proposal to establish a collaborative center for climate, health and sustainable care as an EDU-C, a partnership between the DLSPH, the Temerty Faculty of Medicine, the Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing and the Leslie L. Dan Faculty of Pharmacy. Ross reported that the proposal has been approved at the highest level of governance at the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Pharmacy. A motion to approve by Erica Di Ruggiero and seconded by Jennifer Gibson. **Proposal passed through poll vote with a total of 12 votes in favour of approval of the proposal, none against.**

6. Standing Items:

a.

b. CAO's Update

No update from Robin Hurst except that there were ongoing discussions with the Provost's Office regarding the annual budget at this time and more information will be shared with the group in due course

c. Associate Dean, Research Update

Erica DiRuggiero reported on the following priorities for the DLAPH Office of Research:

- Continue the trend of sustained year over year increase in research funding
- Increase NSERC funding by support to new faculty
- Addition of new team member to support faculty with their award applications and nominations
- Continue to offer lunch and learns

A brief presentation followed that gave a snapshot of the DLSPH research funding patterns over the grant years.

d. Associate Dean, Academic Affairs Update

e. Dean's Update

France Gagnon in her address took a moment to reflect on the deep impact of the conflict in the Middle East on communities and called up members to think about how we can build bridges, how we can foster a mutual respect among each other in our classrooms, and how to work

together towards a peaceful solution of conflicts. France also reminded members of resources at the faculty and university levels should faculty, staff and students need support during this difficult time.

f. IHPME Director Update

Audrey Laporte emphasized on the potential for optimization of resources and sharing of opportunities to build new capacities and foster greater sense of community across the faculty and the university. The future will be driven by achieving these economies of scale across the board and the DLSPH was moving well in that direction.

7. Update from Student Associations

a. PHSA

Members were informed that the Student buddy program that matches an incoming student with an upper year student for mentoring purposes will be launched soon.

8. Update from the Alumni

a. PHAA and IHPME Society of Grads

There was no update from the Alumni groups.

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting from Dionne Gesink and seconded by Wendy Lou. Meeting adjourned. Next meeting date will be announced soon.

Corrected post June 12 meeting/mg