

Faculty Council Minutes
December 2, 2022 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Present: Marius Locke (Chair), Catherine Amara, Kelly Arbour-Nicitopoulos, Christopher Arnold, Michael Atkinson, Robert Bentley, Barb Brophy, Timothy Burkhart, Joyce Chen, Simon Darnell, Tracia Finlay-Watson, Caroline Fusco, Jenna Gillen, Paul Handley, Ira Jacobs, Gretchen Kerr, Amy Kirkham, Jen Krol, Jamie Le, Sabrina Malouka, Jessica Muha, Wendy Pais, Francesca Principe, Doug Richards, Sarah Ryan, Boba Samuels, Malieka Shahid, Katherine Tamminen, Lucy Tempest, Linda Trinh, Mandy Wang

Regrets: Ennis Blentic, Michael Hutchison, Lynda Mainwaring (Chair)

Secretariat: Wendy Pais

- 1. Call to Order:** Professor Marius Locke chaired the meeting on behalf of Professor Lynda Mainwaring. The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:30pm.
- 2. Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was accepted as presented. (**Motion:** Richards/Arbour-Nicitopoulos, Carried).
- 3. Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the Oct 7, 2022 meeting were accepted as presented. (**Motion:** Amara/Shahid, Carried).

4. Committee Reports

a. Executive Committee – No report

b. Undergraduate Examinations

Professor Amara reported that the committee met on November 21. At this meeting, the petitions subcommittee reported that 78 petitions were reviewed between October and November, in comparison to 40 in the same period last year. Overall, there has been an increase in the petitions that the subcommittee has received from students. The examinations committee reviewed and reached decisions regarding pending petitions. The current final examination guidelines were also discussed as well as ways to ensure that students are being made aware of this information. It was noted that the Registrar's Office had sent multiple emails to students to prompt them to read and familiarize themselves with the guidelines. The committee also discussed informing the professoriate of the guidelines, so they could remind students and direct them to where the information could be found. Student representatives that serve on the Faculty Council were also asked to distribute these guidelines through their communication channels.

c. Undergraduate Curriculum

Professor Amara reported that the committee met on November 14 and discussed two topics, the sustainability curricular pathway and outdoor physical education. The discussion on sustainability was originally stimulated by broader discussion outside of the Faculty. Due to her research expertise related to consumption and waste at sporting events, environmental health, social justice as well as gender diversity and health, the University Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Sustainability invited Professor Fusco into the discussion related to the curriculum content on sustainability across the University. These discussions were then brought forward to the Curriculum committee. The Curriculum committee reviewed the United Nations sustainable development goals following the approach of the University Committee on Environment Climate Change and Sustainability. Since most KPE courses have substantive

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d. Undergraduate Admissions

Professor Locke reported that the admissions committee had a brief meeting to prepare for the start of the admission process next term.

e. Graduate Committee

Professor Atkinson reported that the committee met on November 28, and had a preliminary discussion about the PhD comprehensive exam process. The committee is working on a proposal which will be discussed at the next committee meeting and those ideas will be presented to the professoriate in February.

f. Research Committee

Dean Kerr presented a report on behalf of Professor Welsh. The committee updates were in regards to internal faculty research grants and management of research spaces. The committee has been discussing and establishing priorities for the internal Faculty research grants and the processes for assessing these. The overarching aim of these grants is to provide seed funding to support the establishment of new research projects that can lead to larger tri-agency funded research programs. The submission window for new grants is now closed, and the committee will report the outcome of the grant assessment at a future Faculty Council. The number of the grants awarded in the previous round have been given extensions largely due to delays that resulted from the suspension of in-person data collection, and analysis activities due to public health measures related to the pandemic. The committee has also started a process of assessing the effectiveness of the grant program in achieving its overarching aim of providing initial support to establish programs that are supported by tri-agency funding. The committee has been discussing the use of research space, with a particular focus on spaces for research personnel such as graduate students, post doctoral fellows and research assistant, and developing a set of principles for supporting the effective use of the research spaces. This process is on-going, and consultations will occur and future findings will be reported to the Council.

g. Council of Athletics & Recreation

Jessica Muha reported that the committee is in the process of budget approval which will be sent to the Council of Athletics and Recreation on December 6.

h. Equity Committee

Professor Arbour-Nicitopoulos reported that the committee is at the final stages of completing their terms of reference project which may be submitted to the next Faculty council for approval. The committee is looking at some initiatives such as universal design and how these principles can be used in resources and supports.

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- i. **Awards Committee** – No report
- j. **Restricted Funds Committee** – No report
- k. **Sponsorship Committee** – No report

5. EDU Reports

a. Centre for Sport Policy Studies

Professor Darnell reported that a few activities were arranged by the Centre. On November 3, Rich Norman gave a seminar presentation on the future of sport. On November 28, a film was screened called ‘Broken’, about the culture of abuse in gymnastics. The committee is working on re-launching the centre’s website, and strategizing on how to get students more involved with the centre and share their work.

b. Centre for Motor Control

Professor Chen presented on behalf of Professor Welsh on the Centre for Motor Control seminar series. The first event took place on October 28 with Dr. Gerome Manson who is a former KPE graduate and undergrad student, and now an Assistant Professor at Queens University. This seminar series combined with the graduate seminar series and had 78 attendees, both in person & online. The second event was an in person seminar with Dr. Leah Bent from University of Guelph, with 40 attendees. On February 3, Dr. Mike Cinelli from Laurier University will present a seminar.

c. Mental Health and Physical Activity Research Centre – No report

d. Centre for Sport-Related Concussion Research, Innovation and Knowledge – No report

6. Deans' Reports

a. Dean

Dean Kerr presented the strategic plan for information only to provide an opportunity to hear views on the draft plan, and will bring forward the plan for approval in January. The draft title of the strategic plan is ‘Transformation in Motion’ and was guided by KPE’s mission statement. Dean Kerr mentioned that there had been extensive discussions regarding the mission statement and the general consensus was that the existing mission statement still serves the Faculty extremely well. The process of developing the strategic plan was very consultative and started with setting initial directions with the leadership team. A number of sessions were held to pollinate ideas with staff, casual staff, faculty and members of student governments. Following this, the leadership group met to refine the ideas which came out of the pollination sessions. Then, consultations called “hives” were conducted that helped further the priority themes. After various consultation sessions (including with Faculty Council), the Faculty leadership created the final framework for the strategic plan.

The consultation process led to the identification of a very strong foundation from which to build, as well as highlighting that KPE is a place where there are opportunities to flourish in a holistic sense with a strong sense of community. During the consultation period, the holistic approach to health and well-being and the interdisciplinary nature of KPE were identified as key strengths that should be retained and should be leveraged to do more.

Dean Kerr noted that there was a clear sense that students, staff and faculty are deeply committed to what we do in the Faculty, and that we have a strong reputation as thought leaders through

University of Toronto - Faculty of Kinesiology & Physical Education research, as educational innovators particularly around experiential education, and as influencers across the University and beyond.

Dean Kerr introduced the concept of the shared purpose of '*Excellence in advancing healthy living through inclusive movement*' which we all contribute to in different ways, regardless of which part of the Faculty we are affiliated with. This shared purpose links into the four key strategic priority areas below, which are not mutually exclusive, and are intended to be interdependent and dynamic.

- *Elevate health and well-being:* This is grounded in the notion that movement, in whatever form it takes, is essential to the health of individuals and communities. The goal is to have a local and global impact on the understanding and practice of the fundamental relationship between movement and individuals, communities, environmental health and well-being. Some key objectives are to generate and advance knowledge about the value of movement, disseminate knowledge of movement, model a healthy place to study and work and continually assess and evaluate our knowledge and the extent to which inclusive movement and physical activity are realized in the university and Canadian society.
- *Ignite transformative inclusivity:* The starting point is that health and movement are human rights. The goal is to advance the culture of the Faculty, its programs, operations and spaces to enable accessibility, belonging and fulfillment. Objectives associated with this goal are to generate knowledge, to further the integrated anti-oppression, anti-racism, and equity frameworks, incorporate diverse perspectives in all aspect of programming and services, as well as establish accessible sport, recreation, and physical activity as a central feature of the University experience. In addition, we need to invest in our collective capacity to realize inclusivity and diversity in our people, space, operations and program, amplify our efforts and impacts as advocates, and evaluate and celebrate our initiatives.
- *Foster innovation, discovery and achievement:* Universities are a place for discovery, critical thought, creativity, innovation and growth. It is where we nurture and promote critical thinking, innovation, discovery and achievement. The goal is to be known as place where our culture encourages and supports discovery, innovation and achievement where people can thrive and have equal opportunity for growth. The objectives are discovery based research, investing in creative ways of teaching and learning, and renewing curriculum to promote discovery-based learning in degree, sports and recreational programs to build on the innovations in teaching/learning used through the pandemic.
- *Activate Partnership & Collaboration:* Partnerships and collaborations are fundamental to knowledge mobilization and exchange as well as advocacy and stewardship of meaningful, sustainable change. The goal is to be a place where we will advocate and mobilize knowledge, opportunities, and resources to lead meaningful change including a commitment to reciprocity in all that we do. Some objectives are to create tighter integration between research, curriculum, promote stronger internal partnerships and collaborations, as well grow stronger partnerships across the University and globally for the advancement of our research, education and program delivery.

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Lastly, Dean Kerr summarized that throughout the four key strategic areas, knowledge generation, dissemination and advancement, increasing public impact, and monitoring, evaluation, and celebration are common threads.

Professor Arbour-Nicitopoulos suggested that a glossary be created as there are many terms used in the strategic plan which could be interpreted differently. It was suggested that to ensure that the correct message is being interpreted by all, it would be good to have definitions accompanying the various objectives. Professor Fusco suggested that ‘sustainable’ have a definition in the strategic plan that includes and extends beyond the health of the environment and humans to include animals to ensure an integrated and unifying approach to health. She referred to the “One Health” concept (see the World Health Organization description at: <https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/one-health>). Professor Tamminen asked if any additional training will be provided or available in order for faculty to create capacity to implement or reach the goals that have been articulated in the strategic plan, for example creating sustainability within the curriculum. Professor Kerr responded that some professional development may be needed for some of the objectives in order for them to be successful, and the leadership team will try to embed the strategic plan within the existing structures, and existing standing committees so that it does not lead to additional work load for everyone.

Professor Kerr reported that it has been a busy and exciting term as we continued to navigate the pandemic and return to in-person activities. Research sites are back up and running, classes, physical activity and sport activities are back, in many ways, stronger than ever given the lessons we’ve learned during the pandemic. We’ve also had a number of exciting research-related events this term.

A few weeks ago, the inaugural Brian Pronger Lecture was held in honour of our former colleague, Professor Brian Pronger and his work that is widely recognized internationally as leading-edge and transformative in the field. Congratulations to Professor Fusco, who was Professor Pronger’s first PhD student, and her committee for organizing this important event. Professors Jenna Gillen and Janelle Joseph are to be commended for successful interim reviews, well on their way to the tenure review process. Congratulations to Professor Janelle Joseph who was inducted last week to the Royal College of Canada for *New Scholars, Artists and Scientists* which is a national system of multidisciplinary recognition for the emerging generation of Canadian intellectual leadership.

Congratulations to those undergraduate and graduate students who convocated in November. We also have a make-up convocation next week for those who graduated in 2020 and 2021 and previously had a remote convocation. There has been tremendous uptake for the make-up ceremony with approximately 170 graduates at Convocation Hall and, with their guests, approximately 250 at the reception that will follow. Dean Kerr was delighted to report that at each of these ceremonies, which of course include students from other divisions, KPE faculty members have served as the convocation speaker. Professor Emeritus Bruce Kidd served in this important capacity at the November convocation and Professor Catherine Sabiston will be the convocation speaker at the upcoming December convocation.

Before we meet again, we will recognize The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women on December 6th, the anniversary of the 1989 École Polytechnique massacre, what became known as the Montreal Massacre. Fourteen women were killed, including 12 engineering students, one nursing student, and one staff member, and another fourteen injured,

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in the name of "fighting feminism." The commemoration date was established by the Parliament of Canada in 1991. Many of us in the U of T community can remember where we were 33 years ago when news first broke of this massacre that shocked Canada's post-secondary sector and citizens around the globe. Although this event occurred over 30 years ago, gender-based violence remain a key issue in our own backyard. The countless number of Missing and Murdered Women and Girls, violence against trans individuals, and the highly-publicized incidents of gender-based violence in sport are stark reminders that our work is far from done.

As we head into the holiday season and the winter months, Dean Kerr encouraged everyone to do their part in curbing illnesses where they can. As learned through the media and Faculty and University communications, hospitals and health care settings continue to be overwhelmed, and to help this situation, everyone who is able is encouraged to get their flu shots and COVID boosters, and wear masks when possible. There is an easily accessible clinic at the Pharmacy building on the corner of Queens Park and College.

She extended best wishes for all undergraduate and graduate students as they enter into a period of final exams, final term presentations and papers. In closing, Dean Kerr wished everyone a refreshing holiday and chance to connect with family and friends, rest-up, and engage in joyful physical activity.

b. Vice-Dean, Academic

Professor Amara reported that the month of November was a busy and remarkably productive month for the Registrar's Office. The Registrar's Office has more than doubled their effort to meet the increasing student demands for support and student services (both graduate and undergraduate). These include providing one-on-one academic advising for both undergraduate and graduate students with the number of appointments well exceeding those in past years. Professor Amara informed the Council of the number of different activities that were organized by the Registrar's Office, including KINctions activities such as a Halloween skate, guide to undergraduate research and finding/pursuing research opportunities, graduate research exploration, women in careers panel and mindful Monday posts. Each of these events had high numbers of participants, and these events are being well received by students. There are also workshops offered by the staff within the Registrar Office and outside of the Office, many of which were in response to student requests. The workshops included effective learning strategies for specific courses, planning Arts & Science minors, developing study routine, prepping for oral exams, tackling comprehensive exams, motivation & procrastination and many more. Some of the equity engagement activities included a visit to the Evergreen Brickworks arranged for international students and equity talks related to sports and gender. Lastly, Professor Amara extended a big thank you and congratulations to Wendy Pais and her remarkable team for a successful Fall term. Recruitment for students continues to ramp up. Fall Campus Day was held on October 27 and a Graduate Information Session was also hosted earlier in the week. In addition, recruitment officer Steven Marchment continues to provide one-on-one virtual sessions, high school campus tours and well as going out to schools and various recruitment events off campus. Professor Amara acknowledged the recent November convocation and thanked the Office for their work in organizing the celebration event. In closing, she extended best wishes to the students and faculty for the final month before the holiday break.

c. Associate Dean, Research

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Dean Kerr represented a report on behalf of Professor Welsh. In terms of the institutional research data management plan, institutions and individual researchers supported by tri-agency grants are now required to develop, report and maintain research data plans. The University of Toronto shared a draft version of our institutional level strategy plan for data management and is looking for feedback on this plan. Secondly, the Faculty hosted the first Scientific Café on November 24 which was a huge success. These cafés are designed to provide new opportunities for all members of the Faculty including current staff, students, alumni and professors to interact with each other while discussing research activities and topical issues that are relevant to the faculty. These will facilitate exchange of knowledge and help with public impact. The first topic of the café session was how sport can be a means for political and environmental change, with a specific focus on 2022 FIFA world cup. There were 60 attendees at this café. Thanks was extended to all who helped organize the café.

d. Executive Director, Athletics & Physical Activity – No report

e. Chief Administrative Officer

Paul Handley reported with an update on the Goldring Lab Space redesign. The project is nearing completion and the work most likely will be finished by next Council meeting. The Benson Lounge Air Conditioning/Heating installation project is making good progress toward completion.

7. Student Governments' Reports

a. KPEUA – No report

b. KPEGS

Francesca Principe provided an update on the Bodies of Knowledge conference. The initial plan was approved and sub-committees are starting to be formed. In addition, graduate students would like to receive a teaching assistant evaluation at the end of the term, similar to the evaluation surveys that students receive regarding their instructor at the end of term.

8. Other Business/Announcements

Dean Kerr extended special thanks and appreciation to Professor Amara for stepping in as the acting Vice-Dean, adding to her existing responsibilities as Director, Undergraduate Education, for the past six months. Professor Amara has provided important leadership and oversight of our degree programmes, worked closely with faculty and staff members and with students, all during a challenging time when we were gradually returning to in-person activities. Dean Kerr thanked Professor Amara for her leadership during this time.

9. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:33 p.m. (**Motion:** Finlay-Watson/ All, Carried)