

**University of Toronto – Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education**  
**Faculty Council Minutes**  
**November 4, 2020 12pm – 2pm**  
**Virtual Meeting, Blackboard Collaborate**  
**Link: <https://ca.bbcollab.com/guest/7c8b4897006a4c048a11572a9f5bc6e8>**

**Present:** Margaret MacNeill (Chair), Adam Ali, Beth Ali, Caitlin Alvares, Catherine Amara, Michael Atkinson, April Bayona, Robert Bentley, Barb Brophrey, Timothy Burkhart, Joyce Chen, Martina Coulas, Kristine Drakich, Tracia Finlay-Watson, Caroline Fusco, Jenna Gillen, Jack Goodman, Paul Handley, Michael Hutchison, Ira Jacobs, Janelle Joseph, Amy Kirkham, Jen Krol, Marius Locke, Hassaan Mahmood, Wendy Pais, Catherine Sabiston, Boba Samuels, Daniel Santa Mina, Stephanie Sarker, Jessica Selvaratnam, Grant Shantz, Ashley Stirling, Tim Taha, Katherine Tamminen, Scott Thomas, Tiffany Tiu, Luc Tremblay, Linda Trinh, Madison Vani, Tim Welsh

**Regrets:** Natalie Alvares, Lynda Mainwaring, Shalyn Pilgrim

**Guests:** Natalie Agro, Robin Waley, Jim Webster

**Secretariat:** Carolyn Laidlaw

1. **Call to Order and Introduction:** At 12:04 p.m., Dean Jacobs asked Vice Dean Stirling to temporarily step in as meeting Chair, and she agreed. The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made to accept the agenda, and was carried. Professor MacNeill joined the meeting, and took over the role of Chair. (**Motion:** Ali, B./Fusco)
3. **Approval of Minutes**
  - a. A motion to approve the November 6, 2020 minutes as circulated was made. Tiffany Tiu made a request to amend the link in the KPEUA report to reflect the finalized student survey report, rather than the draft version. The amendment was accepted, and the motion to approve the minutes carried. (**Motion:** Jacobs/Tremblay)
  - b. **Business Arising out of Minutes**

Dean Jacobs reported that the Faculty Council-endorsed letter from the Curriculum Committee to the Canadian Council of University Physical Education and Kinesiology Administrators (CCUPEKA) had been brought forward to CCUPEKA, and is on the agenda for their Semi-Annual General Meeting being held on December 7-8, 2020. Dean Jacobs will be attending this meeting. Professor Amara will attend this meeting as a guest to present the letter to the Council.

Dean Jacobs thanked KPEUA for providing an updated link to the *KPEUA Report on Kinesiology Students' Online Learning Experiences* for the minutes, and for creating a well-organized and presented report. He informed Council that the revised final version of the document was emailed to all members of the professoriate after the November meeting.
4. **Committee Reports**
  - a. **Executive Committee**

Dean Jacobs reported that the Executive Committee met prior to today's meeting and proposed today's Faculty Council agenda.
  - b. **Undergraduate Examinations**

Professor Thomas reported that while petitions were ongoing. There were not as many petitions submitted as expected by the Examinations Committee regarding online tests.

### c. Curriculum Committee

Professor Amara reported that at the November committee meeting student member, Tiffany Tiu, gave a presentation of the results of the KPEUA student survey, which was discussed at length. This report was later shared by Professor Stirling with the professoriate, as Dean Jacobs mentioned. A key concern noted was that students are feeling overwhelmed with the increased workload and weekly assignments, and this feedback was shared with instructors during the review process for Winter term course outlines

The committee also discussed the *Task Force on Race and Indigeneity's* recommendation for adding a required course in the KPE curriculum focused on Indigenous history, colonial history, equity, racialization and racism in the context of sport and physical activity. The committee has accepted this recommendation, and has decided that this course would be best placed in the first two years of the program. At the request of the committee, Professor Amara met with several Physical Cultural Studies faculty members to better understand what is currently being taught, and to get ideas for unique content that could be taught in the future. Thank you to Professor Ali, Professor Fusco, Professor MacNeill and Professor Joseph for their input.

The *Anti Oppression and Inclusion Curriculum Working Group* has continued to meet and develop ideas around support for instructors to integrate anti-racist practices and content into all of our courses. Members are working on providing materials for the repository. The repository is being created in a Quercus course shell. The plan is to have the Curriculum Committee discuss the findings of the working group in our January meeting, and to have the course shell available to all instructors in January as well. Professor Amara thanked all working group members for their contributions this fall.

### d. Undergraduate Admissions

Professor Taha reported that the final number of newly admitted first year BKIN students registered in Fall 2020 is 252. Of this, 172 are students from Ontario high schools, 72 are from outside of Ontario (both Canadian and international), and 32 international fee-paying students. These numbers are in line with admission numbers from previous years. He thanked all of the first-year instructors teaching this term, who have been keeping the students enrolled. There have already been a large number of applications received for Fall 2021: approximately 850 have been received so far, compared to about 630 at this time last year.

### e. Graduate Committee

Professor Atkinson provided a report on the results of the applications received internally for the *Canada Graduate Scholarship Doctoral Awards*. A selection of these were forwarded to the School of Graduate Studies for further review, and in some cases on to the national councils for review:

- Three (of three applicants) were submitted to Natural Sciences and Engineering Research (NSERC);
- Five (of six applicants) were submitted to Social Science and Humanities Research (SSHRC); and
- Two (of five applicants) were submitted to Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR).

Upcoming admission deadlines: January 15, 2021 for the PhD program, February 1, 2021 for the MSc program, and March 15, 2021 for the Master of Professional Kinesiology program.

Program development has been ongoing, with discussions about a proposed MA program progressing and an update expected in the new year. A systematic review of the MPK program is also underway, to

determine how we can adapt the program and adopt new ideas in light of the realities of COVID-19, and also to remain reactive and responsive to the changing landscape of professional kinesiology.

**f. Research Committee**

Professor Tremblay reported that the Research Committee met on November 16, with two major agenda items. For one of the major agenda items, two presentations for Extra-Departmental Unit proposals were made. One of them was by Professor Hutchison, proposing the creation of a new EDU which would be in line with our Faculty's Strategic Academic Plan Extension. Specifically, he is proposing to create an Interdisciplinary Center for functional assessments and interventions, promoting physical and psychological wellbeing following concussion. The other presentation was by Professor Darnell, who introduced a succession plan and expansion proposal that would lead to a revised version of the Centre for Sport Policy Studies. Professor Darnell's proposal would expand the mandate of the current EDU to include a 'Sport for Development' mandate. The Committee is also expecting another presentation in the near future, which could represent a revival and revision of the Centre for Girls and Women's Health and Physical Activity. As for the subsequent steps, the Research Committee will receive written proposals, which will come to Faculty Council for support before being formally considered the Dean and the Academic Board.

In addition, the Research Committee adjudicated submissions for the KPE Internal Research Grants. In line with our *Faculty's Task Force on Race & Indigeneity* and UofT's *Equity & Diversity in Research & Innovation Working Group Report*; the committee encouraged researchers to submit applications that include efforts to incorporate Indigenous ways of knowing, support inclusive practices, and focus on Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC) issues broadly defined. Dr. Tremblay indicated he was proud to report three of the proposals included new research initiatives that continue to demonstrate our commitment to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion.

**g. Council of Athletics & Recreation**

Co-Chair Grant Shantz reported that at the last CAR meeting Beth Ali and Jim Webster presented a draft budget for co-curricular sports and recreation programs, which was reviewed and endorsed by the CAR budget committee. Members can now review this document and submit comments via email, and a vote to approve the budget will take place in January.

**h. Equity Committee**

Professor Ali reported that at their last meeting the Committee filled the outstanding student positions, as well as discussed the KPE 2019-20 Equity Report, with a view to improving future versions. The committee finalized their terms of reference, and will be bringing them to a vote at their December meeting. Feedback regarding the proposed Committee initiatives for the coming year has also been received, and the details of these activities are being finalized.

Based on the success of initiatives put forward by the Curriculum Committee and the Research Committee, a goal for this year is to open meaningful dialogue with other standing committees regarding the Faculty's equity goals based on the *Task Force for Race and Indigeneity* report. One of the objectives for the next month will be to reach out to other committee chairs to find a way to harmonize goals between committees moving forward. Currently there is a digital divide with the transition to online learning, and we are looking to learn more about barriers to online learning, as well as safe ways to access learning.

**i. Awards Committee – no report**

**j. Restricted Funds Committee**

Natalie Agro reported that the committee had last met on November 16, and reviewed the faculty endowment and expendable funds reports. A motion to accept these reports as presented was passed. A review of spending plans from the last fiscal year, as well as the coming year, also took place.

**k. Sponsorship Committee – no report**

**5. EDU Reports**

**a. Centre for Sport Policy Studies – no report**

**b. Centre for Motor Control**

Professor Welsh reported that the lecture series has continued to be successful and serves as a great tool for sharing information. The most recent talk, given by Avril Mansfield, was attended by over 30 people across southern Ontario and Quebec. The next speaker is Bernadette Murphy, on December 16, 2020.

**c. Mental Health and Physical Activity Research Centre**

Professor Sabiston reported that the student advisory group has been established and has met to discuss knowledge translation priorities for 2021. The student members represent each of MPARC's underlying labs (and advisory committee members): Kristen Lucibello (PhD candidate), Roxy O'Rourke (PhD student), Zoe Poucher (PhD candidate), Maggie Chen (MSc student), and Alyssa Neville (MSc student).

The MoveU.HappyU virtual program currently has 39 University of Toronto students enrolled who are currently residing in many different countries.

Finally, Professor Sabiston reported that she has been asked to serve on the University's Mental Health for Students and Youth Research Steering Committee, that was convened to address the Student Mental Health Task Force recommendations. It is envisioned that physical activity programming and related counselling will be part of a multimodal mental health prevention and treatment delivery model on campus.

**6. Dean's Reports**

**a. Dean**

Dean Jacobs provided an update regarding the end of the term and pandemic related adjustments, based on a presentation from Professor Vivek Goel. Professor Goel's analysis of the situation is that Toronto and Peel regions will likely stay in lockdown until January, with essential teaching being exempt from this (limited to 10 students at a time in medical, health or trades related). The winter semester will continue in accordance with current plans to deliver all courses online, with an expectation of more activities resuming in the spring and summer. There is good news regarding the vaccine distribution in the UK beginning next week, and it seems that Canada is well positioned to begin receiving the vaccine in January. Professor Goel is of the opinion that it will be well into 2021 before the majority of the population is immunized. As it is not yet known what the length of the immunity period will be, it is reasonable to expect restrictions on large gatherings, even for those who have been vaccinated, likely until the summer or fall. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the USA have shortened their recommended quarantine period to seven days, and Professor Goel expects that Canada will make similar changes soon. It needs to be recognized that not all countries will be immunized at the same pace, which could continue to constitute a barrier to travel even for those who are vaccinated. Caution is therefore advised in planning international travel and events in 2021.

The University of Toronto has been ranked by the *Times Higher Education World University Rankings*, and is one of the few institutions that is ranked among the top 50 in all disciplinary areas. In global employability of graduates, U of T is ranked 8<sup>th</sup> in the world.

The Provost has provided an update on the *Student Mental Health Task Force*, which is being implemented. A simplified and streamlined way to access mental health services for students has been created, which helps to refocus and harmonize student across the three campuses and seven colleges. In developing this system for mental health, the University is expanding the diversity of its services and partnerships in support of student mental health. More information can be found here: <https://mentalhealth.utoronto.ca/>

Applications for the 2021-22 academic year have increased across all divisions of the university, but it is too early in the application cycle to be confident in the continuation of this trend. The academic tower capital construction project is progressing through governance and has been approved at all stages so far, with the final stage coming before Governing Council in a few weeks. Both Dean Jacobs and Chief Administrative Officer Paul Handley will be attending this meeting, in case questions arise about KPE's proposed occupancy of two floors in the tower.

The University will be closed as of December 23, 2020, and buildings will re-open on January 4, 2021. KPE graduate and undergraduate classes begin on January 11, 2021. All faculty and students are encouraged to view this extra week as a period of recovery and preparation for the Winter term.

**b. Vice Dean, Academic**

Professor Stirling reinforced that undergraduate and graduate courses for the winter term will start on January 11, 2021, and that it is hoped that the extra week will provide all KPE students, course instructors and staff with much needed time to both recuperate from an extraordinary fall and to prepare for the new academic term. As a result of this change, classes will be extended by one week and the exam period condensed; Reading Week will remain as scheduled, February 15 through 19, 2021.

Our faculty has been spending a lot of time focusing on how to best deliver our courses in this context considering quality of the learning experience, student engagement, as well as the overall well-being and workload of students, course instructors and teaching assistants.

While these considerations have been accentuated and magnified by the pandemic, it is important to underscore the long-term benefits of this work for faculty and students. An emphasis on pedagogies that involve flexibility, kindness and compassion, inclusive course and assessment design, and attention to well-being in approaching course planning and workload, can and should extend beyond the COVID context. We have committed to participating in a pilot project next term on academic resilience, specifically designed for Year II BKIN students. If effective, it is hoped this pilot program will be extended to other years of study.

There are many ongoing recruitment events happening, such as weekly on-line webinars; monthly online e-chats (Ontario and out of province/international); virtual Graduate Fairs and virtual PhD candidates visits. Our PhD Top 30 program is also progressing in full force, which are full day events organized for individual potential PhD students.

Ten months ago, we embarked upon an exercise to develop a fresh approach to sharing the story of the Faculty of Kinesiology & Physical Education at the University of Toronto. Following extensive research and consultation with students, staff, alumni and faculty members, Professor Stirling announced she was

pleased to introduce our new academic brand platform and visual identity, which will be rolling out over the next few months to update the look and feel of our website, email signatures and promotional materials.

**c. Associate Dean, Research**

Professor Tremblay reported that the Delegated Ethics Review Committee has continued to review research protocols submitted by our undergraduate students taking KPE390/490 courses and that they are limited to reviewing protocols that are being conducted remotely.

In line with the latest Ontario Government directives regarding Toronto and Peel regions being classified in the Province's pandemic Grey Zone, the Vice-President, Research and Innovation has updated their website regarding research protocols. Specifically, since November 23, 2020 research that involves participants in face-to-face contexts is no longer allowed, except for the following exceptions: a) the project is directly related to COVID-19; b) the project involves in-person research where the participant is receiving a service that would be delivered regardless of the research project; c) the project is under the primary auspices of another organization's research ethics board, such as the *Toronto Academic Health Science Network*; or d) the project is taking place outside the Grey Zones (which in Ontario are only Toronto and Peel regions at the time of this meeting). In contrast, researchers and trainees can still submit requests to access research facilities. If you need clarifications or if you any help or guidance with a study, please feel comfortable reaching out to Dr. Tremblay directly. Colleagues have been very creative at adapting research studies and UofT's Occupational and Environmental Health and Safety Officers have been very supportive and helpful. Dr. Tremblay offered to share any information that could help others benefit from ideas and adaptations that allow research to continue.

**d. Executive Director, Athletics & Physical Activity**

Beth Ali reported that due to the Grey Zone restrictions there is no in person programming taking place, although online programming is continuing. One of the big concerns is for the students who are currently in residence, and will remain in residence over the holiday break. Thus, in conjunction with Residence Life staff, special programs are being created for these students. The Macintosh Clinic is open for virtual and in person appointments.

An anti-oppression training program was piloted in September with the student equity team, run by Robin Waley. They found there was not enough time to fully engage the participants with the materials. As a result, a second pilot will be run with a group of eight targeted staff members, to get feedback on the curriculum and the design of the workshop (2 hours per week for 6 weeks, online).

**e. Chief Administrative Officer**

Paul Hanley reported that the Benson air conditioning project is nearing completion, and tenders for the Benson pool gallery project have closed. The master space planning project has begun in earnest as well.

**7. Student Government Reports**

**a. KPEUA – no report**

**b. KPEGS**

Madison Vani reported that the *Bodies of Knowledge Conference* has been scheduled for May 20-21, 2021, and will be held virtually. There has been minimal interest in committee positions, and assistance will be needed with finding moderators for the various sessions. Please encourage your students to apply as soon as possible.

A Slack channel has been created for graduate students to share information on academic and social activities. Upcoming social activities include the creation of a KPE group on the exercise tracking app Strava, named 'KPE U of T Activity Club'. This group is open to all students, faculty, and staff. A virtual holiday trivia social will be held on December 18.

8. **Announcement:** The next meeting of Faculty Council will be held on Friday January 22, 2021, from 12:00-2:00 p.m. The fall 2020 semester marks will be reviewed at this meeting.
9. **Adjournment:** The motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 1:11 p.m., and was carried. (**Motion:** Tremblay/Amara)