

**University of Toronto – Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education**  
**Faculty Council Minutes**  
**January 22, 2021, 12:00-2:00 p.m.**  
**Virtual Meeting, Blackboard Collaborate**  
**Link: <https://ca.bbcollab.com/guest/d83000c1edeb4b1c8c218d0a60675092>**

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

**Regrets:** Stephanie Sarker

**Guests:** Natalie Agro, Sarah Baker, Jim Webster

**Secretariat:** Carolyn Laidlaw

1. **Call to Order & Introductions:** The meeting was called to order at 12:00pm.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made to accept the agenda, and was carried.  
(**Motion:** Jacobs/Thomas).
3. **Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made to approve the December 4, 2020 minutes as circulated. Carolyn Laidlaw clarified that section 4.d – Admission Committee had been updated to accurately reflect the admission numbers of incoming first year students. (**Motion:** Ali, B./Amara; Carried)

#### 4. **Committee Reports**

##### a. **Executive Committee**

Dean Jacobs reported that the committee met two weeks ago to review the proposed agenda for today's meeting, and recommended that the agenda before us be presented.

##### b. **Undergraduate Examinations**

Professor Thomas reported on the process of grade review and approval, which was implemented about a year ago. Grades and comments are submitted by instructors to E-Marks, and are reviewed by the Vice Dean, Academic as they are received. Then they are reviewed by the Examinations Committee to look at concerns and trends, and finally they are posted by the Registrar's Office to students. The marks are released on a rolling basis, with more than 50% of the marks being posted to ROSI by the first day of the Winter 2021 term. A report is made to Faculty Council after these reviews. Compared to the averages over the past six years, the Fall 2020 term marks are slightly higher than average, up about 4.5%. Instructors commented that the online delivery of the courses often resulted in higher student engagement with the course work and materials, and this was reflected in the marks. The percentage of A+ grades are higher compared to the six-year medians, but the standard deviation has been maintained across the board.

There were concerns if there would be difficulties reflected in student petitions this term, but overall there has not been a change in the nature or number of petitions from previous years. About 60 petitions were submitted between October and December 2020.

Discussion followed, regarding higher grades and the different methods of evaluation that may be the cause. Several faculty raised concerns about the process of providing virtual exam reviews for students, not wanting to share exam answers in an unsecure environment. The standard procedures for exam review have not yet been updated to reflect a secure online method, the Examinations Committee is in the process of

reviewing this. In the meantime, all student requests for exam reviews should be submitted through the Registrar's Office. Professor Stirling confirmed that there are confidentiality forms that can be provided to students as well, and to reach out to the Registrar's Office if needed.

**c. Undergraduate Curriculum**

Professor Amara reported that the Committee had reviewed and approved two BKIN degree requirements that require accommodations for students graduating this year: the First Aid certification and upper year Outdoor Project. For First Aid/CPR, a provider has been secured for to students to complete the theory components online, with a temporary WSIB certification received at the end of Part 1, which is suitable for graduation. Students will need to complete the in-person components of the course at a later date. For the final Outdoor Project, students will complete a choice of outdoor activities in a convenient location to them, with a creative reflection activity to be completed and submitted.

Discussions have continued regarding the recommendations of the *Task Force on Race and Indigeneity* for developing a related and required undergraduate course, and how it will fit into the degree program.

The *Anti-Oppression and Inclusion Working Group* concluded its work in December, and the community repository of resources has been created and published to support instructors in their pedagogy. It will be a continuing process to maintain this repository, and there are plans to continue to accept recommended resources on an ongoing basis. Feedback is always welcomed. Thank you to Professor Fusco for her assistance in loading resources into the course shell.

**d. Undergraduate Admissions**

Professor Taha reported that applications are coming in, and we are currently marginally ahead of where we were at this time last year. There has been an increase in international students applying, and a small decrease from Ontario high school students. The process of reviewing applications and sending out offers will be beginning soon.

**e. Graduate Committee**

Professor Atkinson reported that the CGSM awards are currently under review, and that our program is able to forward 3 applicants from the SSHRC applications. Regarding admissions, as of January 15, 2021 40 applications had been received for our doctoral program, which is up 22% from this time last year. This includes 5 applications for our new direct entry PhD program. The deadline for MSc applications is February 1, 2021, and the deadline for MPK applications is March 15, 2021.

A workshop in the Professional Development series for graduate students will be held on March 26, 2021, about "Managing Microaggressions and Racism in the Classroom", and will be hosted by the Anti-Racism and Cultural Diversity Office.

Presentation: Graduate Program Development Update

Professor Atkinson reported on the process of the graduate program development, which is focusing on three key areas:

- To attract high quality students to our programs;
- To increase graduate program options in response to changing educational and professional needs; and
- To create financial degrees of freedom that are consistent and spread across diverse tuition funding.

The process to date has included internal consultations, UTQAP external review, feedback from the Vice Provost Academic Programming (VPAP), and a review of competitor schools (focus on USA and UK schools) and their degree options.

We have the capacity, strength and academic rationale for expanding our programs. In the short term, our plan is to create a new Master of Arts (MA) program for the faculty, which will be thesis based. This program can be mapped onto our existing degree and course content, and the hope is to launch in Fall 2022 or 2023. Currently a mini report is being written that outlines the academic rationale for this program, which will be vetted by the VPAP Office to see if it warrants further consideration. If this mini report is approved, then a formal proposal will be developed and reviewed through University governance.

The proposed MA will consist of 2.5 Full Credit Equivalents:

- 0.5 FCE in Methods/Methodology
- 1.0 FCE in Kinesiology
- 1.0 FCE other courses
- SRM3335H Graduate Seminar Course
- Research Thesis

#### Presentation: Master of Professional Kinesiology modifications update

Professor Frost reported that based on feedback received over the past few years, as well as in response to COVID-19, the MPK program needed to be reviewed to see how it could be made more resilient, as well as to improve the student experience. The purpose of these six proposed modifications is to support academic continuity and resilience. Consultation on these proposals will take place in February and March 2021, and will be brought forward to Faculty Council for approval at the March 5, 2021 meeting. If approved, they will be implemented for the incoming August 2021 cohort. Current students will not be affected.

1. Admission requirements: broaden admissions to recognize degrees in complementary areas, not just KIN. Recognize experience and qualifications other than academic degrees;
2. Placement scheduling: remove internal placement that takes place in the Fall (120 hours), and reallocate these hours to the two external placements that take place April-July;
3. Mode of delivery: option for up to 50% of program to be completed online or hybrid;
4. Course scheduling; remove non-essential prerequisites, to allow for flexible scheduling (for both students and faculty);
5. Introductory courses: combine the courses MPK3999H and MPK4000H to streamline experience for students; and
6. Add concentrations: create four areas to formally recognize student's training in a specific area of practice.

Discussion and questions followed. Dean Jacobs asked if the number of credits required for the degree will be changing as a result of these proposals; Professor Frost confirmed they will not change: the total number credits will remain the same (12.0 FCE). Professor Thomas expressed support for these changes, and suggested using the initial August term to onboard students in different ways to our Faculty (for mature students versus recent graduates), in addition to academic courses. Professor Amara asked if the broadening of admissions requirements was a strategy to increase number of eligible applicants, which Professor Frost confirmed, to allow us to bring in students with many different experiences to enrich the overall experience.

**f. Research Committee**

Professor Tremblay reported that the committee last met on December 14, 2020, at which Professor Fusco made a presentation for a 3<sup>rd</sup> new EDU, a revival and extension of the dormant Centre for Girls and Women's Health and Physical Activity. The proposal is being formally brought forward by Professors Fusco, MacNeill, and Joseph. All proposed EDU's have now been invited to provide a written rationale. These proposals were discussed at a committee meeting earlier this week, as well as a review of a pilot project that was conducted in 2019.

**g. Council of Athletics and Recreation**

Co-chair Grant Shantz reported that the Council met on January 11, 2021, with 23 voting members from all 3 campuses in attendance. Beth Ali and Jim Webster confirmed the budget at this meeting, and the draft budget was passed and moved to presentation at the Council for Student Services.

There is currently no in person programming happening, but many online programs are offered. There is a phased opening plan ready for when restrictions are lifted. The Sports Medicine Clinic is currently open for appointments.

Co-chair Tiffany Tiu listed recent reports to CAR:

- Equity Committee Co-chair Robin Waley presented an updated proposed equity and diversity statement for the Faculty to CAR, which received unanimous support;
- Devon Bowyer, president of the BIPOC Varsity Association presented a report on the group's activities (since forming this past summer); and
- Varsity Blues Buddy Up outreach program – has moved to a virtual platform for the Winter term.

**h. Equity Committee**

Professor Ali reported that one of the main initiatives for the year is to update and develop the Equity webpage, and to have it be a feature of KPE's online presence. Good feedback has been received from so far, and the goal is to have it active by the end of the term.

The committee is also working on the creation of an equity and diversity statement for the Faculty, with plans to bring it forward to the Faculty Council for approval soon.

**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 presented on Professor Donnelly's behalf. The next step in ongoing research with the Commonwealth Secretariat with regards to COVID-19, is a toolkit to provide step-by-step measures for Commonwealth governments and support organizations for coping with and building back from the pandemic, as well as future pandemics. This toolkit is about to be published.

Professor Donnelly has recently published a summary of eight years of gender audits in youth sports that he has been conducting; his latest round of data shows no improvements in gender equality in leadership and participation. This new evidence shows that there is more work to be done.

## **b. Centre for Motor Control**

Professor Welsh reported that the December speaker in their presentation series was well attended, around 40 in attendance. The next session is being held next Wednesday, January 27, with Diane Ste-Marie and Brad McKay from the University of Ottawa presenting on motor learning. The Centre will be hosting its annual symposium in early May, details TBD.

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

Professor Sabiston reported that the centre is focused on building out social media and broadcasting more widely on the outputs from the core labs involved in MPARC.

Professor Sabiston then provided some background on the Mental Health for Students & Youth Research Initiative Steering Committee, of which she is a member. The core mandate of the Steering Committee is to provide research-informed, evidence-based solutions and insights to the challenges identified by the report of the Task Force on student mental health.

Core goals:

- advance knowledge and/or develop solutions to complex issues related to mental health and mental health program design and delivery that require cross-divisional collaborations and integrated, interdisciplinary approaches;
- develop and evaluate innovative solutions to post-secondary student mental health challenges;
- identify or develop shared mental health resources and/or facilities that can support student and youth mental health;
- provide opportunities for the accelerated translation of practice and the dissemination of results into the public domain; and
- leverage other aspects of the CAMH and U of T collaboration.

If anyone has or knows of any research, program, intervention specific to student mental health please let Professor Sabiston know so it can be accounted for in the inventory of what is going on across the 3 campuses and in the community.

## **6. Deans' Reports**

### **a. Dean**

Dean Jacobs reported that our facilities remain closed with the recent provincial stay-at-home order. Our academic operations and research continue, but continuing uncertainties and loss of revenue that support our co-curricular programs has resulted in the difficult decision to institute temporary lay offs for more than 60 staff members, primarily those who work in facilities and operations.

Since the last meeting, Dean Jacobs has been working closely with all senior management staff to remain active on all fronts, budget planning, academic planning, tenure review. Professor Dave Frost's probationary review was completed in December, and an extension made of a second contract. There are five upcoming retirements in the next 18 months. Two of these are Professor Kidd and Professor Donnelly, who will be granted Professor Emeritus status in July 2021.

At the last Governing Council meeting, the plans for the academic wood tower were approved, so activities will now ramp up on this project. KPE will be the occupant of two floors in the new building above the north end of the Goldring Centre for High Performance Sport

The University of Toronto Faculty Association and University of Toronto have agreed that merit pay, which would have started on July 1, 2020, will be paid retroactively, likely in the February 2021 payroll.

Dean Jacobs provided an update of the Academic Plan implementation priorities for the 2020-21 academic year (slide). This update will also be shared with students and staff on the KPE website.

Finally, the next Dean of the Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education has been identified, Professor Gretchen Kerr will be taking on the role as of July 1, 2021.

**b. Vice Dean, Academic**

Professor Stirling thanked instructors and staff for the student support that was provided throughout the fall term. The Winter 2021 term is running 100% online, and the Summer 2021 term will also be held online. The Summer term schedule will be announced at the end of the month, with a combination of required and elective courses being offered.

**c. Associate Dean, Research**

Professor Tremblay reported that after the *State of Emergency* (Section 7.0.1 (1) of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*) declaration by the provincial government, which took effect on January 14, the Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation provided some updates. It is strongly encouraged to review and consider limiting our already reduced presence in research facilities. Our research labs remain accessible to researchers only, as per the permissions that have been granted. Also, requests for students and post-docs that require access can still be processed at this time. Further, all researchers are encouraged to continue monitoring updates on the VPRI website, which is available at [research.utoronto.ca](http://research.utoronto.ca). At this time, there is a “Message about implications of the Ontario Provincial Emergency on Research Activities” in red. Professor Tremblay encouraged faculty to regularly look for further updates about research on that website and to reach out if you need further details.

CAO Paul Handley has forwarded a new set of guidelines for researchers working alone in a lab with biohazardous materials. Please contact Professor Tremblay if you have any questions about these new guidelines.

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

Beth Ali reported that she was asked to present to the University Affairs Board regarding pandemic adaptations of Sports and Rec programs have put in place for our students, which was well received. As the CAR co-chairs mentioned, the 2021-22 budget was presented to CAR at the last meeting. Ali thanked Co-chairs Grant Shantz and Tiffany Tiu for their assistance with the presentation. The temporary lay-offs Dean Jacobs mentioned take effect on February 1, and we are hoping that we can call staff back as quickly as possible.

**e. Chief Administrative Officer**

Paul Handley reported that the new COVID-19 stay at home orders have not affected construction at the Faculty. The Benson pool gallery project, which will convert the gallery into student space, has been awarded, and will begin soon. The Benson air conditioning project has been approved through the university, and is moving to final stages and tender. The Goldring lab redesign team will be meeting soon to begin to move this project to the market. As Dean Jacobs mentioned, the academic wood tower has been fully approved through Governing Council, and there is a meeting with the architect happening next week to discuss the space. As a result of the lockdown and limited use of our spaces, we have been able to increase wi-fi coverage through the Goldring Centre for High Performance Sport. The Varsity scoreboard project is now complete. Finally, the space planning exercise consultations were completed before the holiday closure and will be moving forward in the spring.

## **7. Student Governments' Reports**

### **a. KPEUA**

Natalie Alvares reported that the students were pleased with the participation of instructors in 'Exam Jams', and it is hoped that this continues. A private invitation Discord server has been set up for KPE students to chat and socialize online, creating a virtual Benson student lounge space. The council is planning grad photos for graduating students, as well as looking into online options for social events.

### **b. KPEGS**

Madison Vani reported that the *Bodies of Knowledge Conference* will take place May 20-21, 2021, with Dr. Letisha Brown of Virginia Tech University confirmed as the keynote speaker. More information to come. The BOK 2021 planning committee is applying to several external funding opportunities, and will also be sending out a call for abstract in the next couple of weeks.

**8. Announcement:** The next meeting of Faculty Council will be held on Friday March 5, 2021 from 12-2 p.m.

**9. Adjournment:** The motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 1:49 p.m. and was carried.  
(**Motion:** Tremblay/Thomas)