



Date: February 24, 2025

To: Senate

From: Elizabeth Croft, Vice-President Academic and Provost

CC: Helga Hallgrímsdóttir, Deputy Provost
Carrie Andersen, University Secretary

Re: Faculty of Health interim governance structure

Background

In March 2024, Senate and the Board of Governors unanimously approved a [proposal to establish the Faculty of Health](#), effective May 1, 2024 and operational as of May 1, 2025. Included in this proposal were several sections of the Senate-approved motion that addressed the steps required to establish a governance structure for the new Faculty.

With respect to unit-level governance, the motion stated that:

- *All duly established committees in the School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education; School of Health Information Science; School of Medical Sciences; School of Nursing; School of Public Health and Social Policy; and School of Social Work continue as properly established in the academic unit and the Faculty of Health as appropriate, until such time as the Faculty of Health establishes faculty and unit governance structures.*
- *That all proceedings initiated in the School of Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education; School of Health Information Science; School of Medical Sciences; School of Nursing; School of Public Health and Social Policy; and School of Social Work be continued in the academic unit and the Faculty of Health as appropriate.*

With the establishment of a new Faculty, it was acknowledged that an interim Faculty governance structure would be necessary, and the motion required:

- *The creation of interim faculty governance structure for the Faculty of Health effective May 1, 2025 (to be presented to Senate for approval before May 1, 2025).*

According to the University Act section 37(1)(k), Senate has the authority to “determine the members of the teaching and administrative staffs who are to be members of each faculty.” This has become known as membership in each Faculty’s governing body (Faculty Council).

In established Faculties, changes to Faculty Council membership are made on recommendation of the Council. Subject to the approval of Senate, section 40 of the University Act gives a Faculty the authority to:

- a) make rules governing its proceedings, including the determining of the quorum necessary for the transaction of business;
- b) provide for student representation in the meetings and proceedings of the faculty;
- c) make rules for the government, direction and management of the faculty and its affairs and business.

Summary

In the case of the new Faculty of Health, an interim governance structure must be established so that a Faculty Council can begin meeting and make decisions about its governance and decisions requiring the Faculty's immediate attention (e.g., curriculum submissions, program proposals).

As mandated by the University Act, Faculties develop rules governing their proceedings, including the determining of the quorum necessary for the transaction of business, subject to Senate approval. Importantly, the proposed interim governance structure was designed to be minimal, allowing the Faculty of Health to hold their first meeting without impeding the Faculty's authority to create their own governance framework.

While many Faculties at the university have more detailed governance documents, some Faculties still operate on a governance model that simply defines voting and non-voting membership in Faculty Council.

Following consultations with the Faculty of Health Operations Working Group, Faculty of Health Leadership Table, University Secretary's Office and Office of the Vice-President Indigenous, we recommend one meeting take place under the interim structure outlined in this memo, and that the Faculty must revise the structure as the first item of business at their second meeting.

Pursuant to section 37(1)(k), and following consultation with the University Secretary, the following membership in the Faculty is proposed for approval by Senate.

Proposed membership

Voting members:

- Dean (1), who is also the chair.
- All regular faculty members.
- One (1) undergraduate student enrolled in a program in the Faculty and elected by undergraduate students enrolled in programs in the Faculty.
- One (1) graduate student enrolled in a program in the Faculty and elected by graduate students enrolled in programs in the Faculty.
- One (1) continuing sessional employed in the Faculty elected by continuing sessionals employed in the Faculty.
- One (1) PEA/CUPE 951 staff member employed in the Faculty elected by PEA/CUPE 951 staff members employed in the Faculty.

Quorum:

- 20 regular faculty members

Recommended Motion:

THAT Senate approve the proposed membership in the Faculty of Health, to be used 1) to govern the first meeting of the Faculty and 2) to vote on an updated Faculty governance structure as the first order of business at the second meeting of the Faculty.