HEALTH FACULTY
SURVEY RESULTS & DIRECTION OF TRAVEL

CAMPUS TOWNHALL | NOV. 17, 2023
TODAY’S TOWNHALL

• Welcome
• Mandate
• Process
• Survey results
• Next steps
• Q&A
MANDATE

• Make a recommendation on the creation of a new faculty focused on health
• Highlight our strengths in health education, training and research
• Serve vital community needs, including through Indigenous-led scholarship
• Build on the findings from the UVic Health Initiative
• Not a net-new faculty
PROCESS

• Senate-led process
• Recommendation to Board of Governors for final approval
• Ad-hoc Senate Committee on Academic Health Programming formed in May 2023
• Multiple project phases towards implementation
  o Phase 1 (Sept. 2023–Feb. 2024): consultations; initial recommendations on foundational units, rationale, name, interim appointment procedures for dean
  o Phase 2 (Feb. 2024–fall 2024): additional consultations; refining rationale; organizational structure; parallel processes
  o Phase 3 (fall 2024–Sept. 2025): TBD during phase 2, with the new dean; implementation
SURVEY RESPONDENTS

- Students: 1,010 (53%)
- Faculty & Librarians: 286 (15%)
- Staff: 453 (24%)
- Alumni: 126 (6%)
- External to UVic: 40 (2%)
WHAT KIND OF A HEALTH FACULTY?

medical/biological-focused >-----> balanced >-----> social determinant-focused
CONSIDERATIONS FOR SUCCESS

• Align with UVic values
• Address real-world health needs
• Have a balanced academic and research focus
• Include undergraduate and graduate programs
• Prioritize diversity & inclusion
• Include Indigenous perspectives
• Take a collaborative approach, minimize competition and avoid silos
POTENTIAL BENEFITS (FACULTY & STAFF)

- Attractive to high performing students interested in health programs.
- Increased access to funding and resources for health-related programs.
- Greater visibility and recognition for UVic in the field of health education and research.
- Strengthened connections with healthcare organizations and professionals.
- Expanded research opportunities.
POTENTIAL BENEFITS (STUDENTS)

- Increased opportunities for paid work experience in health-related fields through co-op
- Learning from expert faculty and researchers with experience in health-related fields
- Increased funding opportunities for health-related research and scholarship
- Learning in a collaborative and interdisciplinary environment, encouraging innovation and creativity among students
- Access to more experiential learning, practicum and training opportunities in health-related fields
POTENTIAL CHALLENGES (FACULTY & STAFF)

Impact on departmental culture and cohesion due to division of existing units.

Impact on departmental culture and cohesion due to integration into a different entity.

Disruption of established structures.

Concerns about the impact on existing program curricula and potential need for revisions.

Risk of drawing resources (staff, support for research and academic programming) from other Faculties.
INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVES

- Recruitment and retention
- Cultural competency training
- Interdisciplinary knowledge and Indigenous ways of knowing
- Curriculum and programming
- Community engagement and consultation
- Outreach programs
- Distinctions-based approach
STUDENT RESPONDENTS

• Prior to enrolling at UVic, 48% of student respondents were looking for health-related programs
• Students want to work in health-care and health professions, conduct health research
• Interest in co-op and paid internships
• Desire for medical training or a focus on primary care to address community healthcare shortages
NEXT STEPS

• Consulting units, particularly those identified in survey
• Inviting expressions of hypothetical interest from units
• Drafting rationale that identifies units to be included in the new faculty
• Launching parallel processes, including to support units
• Recruiting for a dean
QUESTIONS?

uvic.ca/health-faculty
healthfaculty@uvic.ca