

Minutes of the Meeting of the KPE Faculty Council

May 21, 2025, 10am

Virtual Meeting, Zoom

Present: Catherine Amara, Chris Arnold, Joseph Baker, Robert Bentley, Timothy Burkhart, Joyce Chen, Terry Gardiner, Jenna Gillen, Paul Handley, Ira Jacobs, Gretchen Kerr, Danielle Lawrence, Marius Locke, Lynda Mainwaring, Devonnia Miller, Erica Nekolaichuk, Wendy Pais, Sabrina Razack, Catherine Sabiston, Daniel Santa Mina (Vice Chair), Ashley Stirling, Samira Sunderji, Luc Tremblay (Chair), Tim Welsh

Guests: Maryanne McCormick, Carole Orane

Regrets: Amina Abdul Jalil, Kelly Arbour-Nicitopoulos, Michael Atkinson, Tom Babits, Sarah Baker, Jadyn Brooks, Barb Brophey, Hannah Chown, Michael Cournoyea, Simon Darnell, Kristine Drakich, David Frost, Caroline Fusco, Elijah Gardner, Carl Georgevski, Jodh Gill, Jack Goodman, Michael Hutchison, Udditi Jalan, Janelle Joseph, Linda Kiefer, Amy Kirkham, Jen Krol, Darren Lowe, Byron MacDonald, Jill Mallon, Tricia McGuire-Adams, Daniel Moore, Madeleine Orr, Doug Richards, Nicole Ryan, Daniel Sailofsky, Boba Samuels, Rachel Scarcello, Erin Sullivan, Tim Taha, Katherine Tamminen, Lucy Tempest, Linda Trinh, Fatima Zahra

Secretary: Meredith Strong

1. **Call to Order and Approval of Agenda** – The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:10 am, noting late start to a national outage issue with Bell Canada, and therefore allowing more time for attendees to connect to the call. The Chair acknowledged the land on which the University of Toronto operates. The Chair encouraged all to look up the Treaty Map from the Yellowhead Institute, and to learn about the treaties, indigenous people of the area we might travel to. He offered special thanks to Terry Gardiner for facilitating the well-attended land acknowledgement workshops for KPE, where many of us learned about this resource and many others. [Training | Indigenous University of Toronto](#).

Professor Amara informed that there was no report for Item 5.c, as not all the grades are in, and there are anomalies to the report when pulled. Professor Amara asked that Item 5.c be removed, and she will present an overview at the Fall Council session.

The motion was carried (Motion: Chair Tremblay/A. Stirling). The revised Agenda was approved unanimously.

2. **Approval of Minutes**

Minutes were approved (G. Kerr, C. Sabiston)

- 2.a. **Business Arising out of Minutes**

There was no Business Arising from the Minutes/previous meeting.

3. Reports of the Standing Committees for Information:

- **Undergraduate Admissions – M. Locke**

Professor Locke reported four meetings this year. This year we made 1,278 offers, which is up by 2%, so very similar to last year. 35% of those offers were made in the first round compared to about 30% last year in round one. For round two, approximately 40% of the offers were made (similar to last year). International student offers were up by 2%. Professor Locke thanked Nicole Ryan, Assistant Registrar, for all her hard work to get the admissions in place.

In response to a member's question regarding the international students, Professor Locke indicated that based on his recollection, the largest cohort was from China, and perhaps next from the US.

- **Graduate Committee – A. Stirling**

Professor Stirling indicated that since the last Faculty Committee meeting, the Graduate Committee met on April 28th, and the focus of this meeting was Master of Kinesiology and Master of Sport Sciences admissions.

Admissions activity is ongoing, and current data is summarized below (as of May 12, 2025).

- PhD: A total of 19 offers were released across all PhD categories, with 16 offers accepted, 1 pending.
- MSc: There have been 24 offers, and 20 of them were accepted.
- MA: One offer was released and it was accepted.
- MKin: 32 offers were released, and acceptances are TBC.

Professor Locke asked about the date that final decisions are made, whether they are fixed, as potential students are anxious to know if they are accepted. Professor Stirling informed that there is a date, but the admission process is kept open until there may be confirmation from faculty members, if the student did not make it into the competitive faculty funded pool there is an opportunity to faculty members to fund incoming students.

Professor Jacobs enquired about Federal Government guidelines re security requirements regarding specific technology areas, receiving grants and the implications for the citizenship of students who might be working with faculty members, or being supervised by graduate students. Professor Stirling responded that for graduate education, this issue has not arisen, as the University's continued goal is to be a globally recognized institution, with global education, diversifying the international and cultural competencies across the student bodies and across all types of programs. Professor Jacobs also noted that the issue could be resolved in the visa application process. Professor Welsh indicated that for students involved in research, the matter had been discussed, but there are no decisions or official guidelines yet.

- **Research Committee – T. Welsh**

In response to the written report submitted, Professor Razack asked about the demographics related to both admissions and research (summer awards program). Professor Welsh indicated he was open to feedback about outreach to Black and Indigenous applicants, and Professor Razack offered to brainstorm ideas, of which Professor Welsh was appreciative.

4. **Student Governments' Reports**

- **KPEUA – F. Zahra**

No Report.

- **KPEGS –S. Sunderji**

The Bodies of Knowledge (BoK) conference, held on May 9th, 2025, was a great success. With 85 registrants, we received 55 abstract submissions across oral presentations, 3-minute theses, and poster sessions, with representation from several universities. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed, attended, and supported our student presenters.

On April 28th, KPEGS hosted a “Debunking Comps” session, where students who recently completed their comprehensive exams shared tips and insights with peers preparing for their comps this summer or in the future. The hybrid event was well-received and helped demystify the process for PhD students. Looking ahead, KPEGS is planning several informal summer events starting in June—with at least one event per month—to keep our graduate community connected and informed.

Finally, preparations are underway for the KPEGS elections in July, including the setup of the Simply Voting platform and outreach to incoming students.

Samira concluded with thanks for the ongoing support.

5. **Deans' Reports**

- **Dean – G. Kerr**

Dean Kerr acknowledged the many achievements of KPE students, staff, and faculty, and announced that Professor Jenna Gillen had been awarded tenure. Congratulations were extended on this outstanding achievement.

The convocation ceremony will be held on June 12, celebrating our graduating undergraduate and graduate students.

As part of our Faculty's response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, many members of Council participated in the workshop Reflecting on Indigenous Land Acknowledgements. Appreciation was extended to Terry Gardiner, Director of EDI, for organizing these meaningful sessions.

To recognize Asian Heritage Month, celebrations will be held in collaboration with the Faculty of Social Work, former Senator and Chancellor Emerita of the University of Toronto, Vivienne Poy, and the Toronto Catholic District School Board.

Pride Month will be recognized on June 4 with the annual Pride Flag raising at Varsity Stadium. President Meric Gertler, who will conclude his term on June 30, will be in attendance to deliver remarks. The Council extends our collective thanks to President Gertler for his 12 years of leadership and service, and that wish him best wishes as he embarks on the next chapter of his journey.

Dean Kerr expressed her appreciation to all members for their ongoing contributions with a special word of thanks to members of our student councils who are graduating or moving on to new endeavours.

- **Vice-Dean, Programs – A. Stirling**

Sport and Recreation: The Spring/summer registration and instructor recruitment are underway. EDIB initiatives concluded with Move with Pride: Kettlebells, and 2SLGBTQIA+ honouree nominations were launched. Support was provided for visually accommodated personal training and Move U Mobile U Yoga sessions. Junior Blues winter programs ended; summer camp recruitment is ongoing. Some clubs continue over the summer months.

Interuniversity and High-Performance Athletics: Varsity Blues celebrated a standout year with 12 banners, including women's hockey OUA champions and national bronze. The Varsity Blues awards gala recognized top athletes, such as Owen Robinson (Men's Athlete of the Year) and Nina Mollin (Women's Athlete of the Year). Preparations are underway for hosting the 2025 U SPORTS men's soccer championship.

Sport Medicine Clinic: The clinic recorded 23,988 visits for the year to date, including sport psychiatry and dietician services. Revenue has exceeded expectations, and the new EMR system launches in June. Plans are in motion for expanded kinesiology services and multidisciplinary care. A new admin fee structure and a refreshed Athlete Health Questionnaire will be implemented in May.

Registrarial and Student Services: Graduate and undergraduate admissions are progressing steadily. Advising demand rose by 35% in comparison to the same time last year, and placement planning for MPK and BKIN continues. The student facing Student Advising System portal will launch in September 2025. A successful Mentor Appreciation Breakfast was held on May 7, 2025. KINections events such as KINect Around the Globe and Fridge Walk/Run were well received. 2024-25 KINections summary – Fall: 9 events, 256 registered, 175 attended and 40 post event surveys completed. Winter: 14 events, 446 registered, 392 attended and 123 post event surveys completed. 2024- 25 had a total of 23 events; 567 participants compared to 2023-24 with 18 events and 468 participants, which is a 21% increase in participation.

Undergraduate & Graduate Education: Summer term courses have begun. We currently have 864 BKIN summer registrations across 11 courses and 25 MPK students registered in the MPK placement course. Convocation is upcoming on June 12, 2025.

- **Associate Dean, Research – T. Welsh**

In addition to the written report (attached), Professor Welsh updated the Council on discussions around the Divisional Quantitative Strategic Research Plan. This initiative from the Vice-President, Research and Innovation Office is to understand the goals of the different Faculties with the hope to coordinate across academic units. To support this, KPE sets goals for the year. This year's goals are to increase participation rates for CRC-eligible grants by 10%, to make advancements towards

some large team grants, and to maintain an increased number of applications for awards and honours. Professor Welsh indicated that the Research Services Office can assist and support efforts to seek opportunities, and they will help to develop an internal peer review system for grants. One or two workshops over summer, focusing on SHRC and NSERC, are being planned.

Professor Tremblay asked about the deadline for the survey on research equipment. Professor Welsh informed that there is no specific deadline, being cognizant of faculty members' time to review. He will provide some encouragement to complete over the summer months, as it is an important exercise.

- **Chief Administrative Officer – P. Handley**

Mr. Handley reported that work on the Green Wall in the Warren Stevens building is complete from an implementation standpoint. The plants need to fill in, grow, and bloom. It is an ongoing process until it gets to a more stable stage, which may be a year or so from now.

6. **EDU and Institute Reports**

- **Mental Health and Physical Activity Research Centre (MPARC) – C. Sabiston**

Professor Sabiston reminded that there will be a faculty talk on May 26 at 10:00 am by Professor Ivanka Prichard of Flinders University, Australia.

MPARC has been connecting with UTM Campus and Sport and Recreation to assist both with evaluation of the Move Mentors program, a peer mentoring program to help university students on campus connect with peers and learn how to engage in movement and use the facilities at UTM. The aim is to connect UTM with our Move U Happy U program and deploy this program there.

Regarding Move U, Happy U, what is considered the first randomized control trial of physical activity and mental health program on campus has just been completed. The program is running as expected, and a tremendous and significant impact is being realized on the mental health of the students who come through our doors. The trial looks at group vs individual training, compared to a control group. The program is showing great results based on the trial.

- **Centre for Sport-Related Concussion Research, Innovation and Knowledge – M. Hutchison**

No Report

- **Tanenbaum Institute for Science in Sport (TISS) – I. Jacobs**

TISS Accelerator Grant cycle is in process: Letters of Intent were received, reviewed by solicited reviewers that assisted me, reviewed by the TISS Director, resulted in 2/3ds of the LOI's being invited to submit full proposals due mid-June, application decision mid-August, and funds will flow to investigators mid-September.

Several new funding requests are under consideration that will result in net new funding awarded to the TISS contributing to its sustainability

TISS Annual Research Conference is Sept 26/27 Friday/Saturday.

First day for sport medicine and sport sciences researchers and second day for the broader HPS communities

Almost all of the sessions now have confirmed speakers ---- a fantastic group of researchers from within and outside of Canada

Topics are already on the conference website, and the speaker names will be shortly posted within two or 3 days

Looking forward to an October TISS Speaking Event featuring the IOC Director Health, Medicine and Science, Dr. Jane Thornton --- a former kinesiology undergrad, who then completed her medical degree at U of T's Temerty Faculty of Medicine, and someone who reached out to our Faculty re strategies to augment and improve the amount of exercise science content in the medical curriculum for students --- and she was instrumental and successful in achieving that objective.

7. Other Business/Announcements

Professor Tremblay concluded the meeting by thanking Dean Kerr for entrusting him with the role of chair, with particular thanks to Meredith Strong for providing well-organized and helpful support throughout the year. Professor Tremblay wished everyone an enjoyable summer. After adjournment, Professor Tremblay asked that his appreciation also be noted to Carole Orane for the administrative support to the Council.

8. Adjournment

This meeting, the last Faculty Council Meeting of the year, was adjourned at 10:58 am (Motion: C. Amara, D. Miller).

The motion was carried.

May 21, 2025 Faculty Council Reports

3. Reports of the Standing Committees of Council for Information

a. Undergraduate Admissions – M. Locke

Verbal Report

b. Graduate Committee – A. Stirling

Verbal Report

c. Research Committee – T. Welsh

1. Undergraduate Summer Research Opportunities adjudication:

The Research Committee discussed the process and outcomes of the Summer Undergraduate Research Opportunities. There were 3 main outcomes of discussed: 1) an increase in the total number of awards this year (13 in total); 2) there were no entries into the competitions that provide additional opportunities for students who identify as Black or Indigenous; and 3) the awards were concentrated in the areas of biomechanics, motor behaviour, exercise physiology, and exercise and health psychology. Main recommendations for next year's process are to: 1) start the advertisement process earlier; advertise more widely; and, 3) provide some additional targeted encouragement for underrepresented areas and individuals. Additional feedback on the process is welcome.

2. Qualitative assessments of impact

In an effort to support the recognition of all forms of research and creative professional activities, the Research Committee continued to discuss a set of these characteristics and potential ways of assessing and recognizing impact using these characteristics. Feedback from the preliminary list that was shared with the Professoriate meeting was also discussed. The Research Committee recommended that the list of characteristics be used as keywords supporting the communication of the impact of research and creative professional activities, and continual discussion of use of the characteristics for assessment of impact.

3. Supports provided by Research Services Office

The Research Committee discussed current and future supports for research and creative professional activities provided by the Research Services Office. Although the Research Committee was supportive of all activities currently undertaken by the Research Services Office (including supports for finding and applying for grants and awards, ethics screening, research alerts, and outreach activities including visual abstracts and Science Cafes), there was the recognition that the needs of faculty are evolving to require more supports for reviewing, writing, and revising grant applications. This evolution in supports will be reflected in the future activities of the Research Services Office and is a core component of

the plan for achieving the goals outlined in the Divisional Quantitative Research Plan (see Report of the Associate Dean, Research).

4. Student Governments' Reports

a. KPEUA – F. Zahra

Verbal Report

b. KPEGS – S. Sunderji

Verbal Report

5. Deans' Report

a. Dean's Report

Verbal Report

b. Vice-Dean, Programs

Verbal Report

c. Associate Dean, Undergraduate Education – C. Amara

Verbal Report

d. Associate Dean, Research

The following is a list of important announcements, notices, and information regarding research and related activities since the previous Faculty Council.

1. Science Café

FKPE was proud to organize and host three next Science Cafés over the last year, reaching more than 300 total attendees. The Research Services Office is starting to work on the Science Cafés. Please reach out if you have an idea. As a reminder, all Science Café's and special lectures are posted online. Please promote them and encourage individuals to view them online. These videos can also be used as resources for your classes.

2. Divisional Quantitative Strategic Research Plan

Each year, the Office of the Vice-President, Research & Innovation requests that each academic division submit a set of goals for quantitative indices of research impact across the areas of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Citations and Publications, Grants, and Awards and Recognitions. The purpose of the setting of these goals is to support the development of action plans to increase impact of research and innovation within units,

and enables coordination of activities across units. Draft versions of these goals were presented at the Professoriate Retreat for feedback. The goals focus on grant participation rates, increases in budget requests, and number of award applications. To support the achievement of these goals, the Research Services Office will: 1) develop an internal peer review system for grants; and 2) provide support for revising and resubmitting grant applications.

3. Research Grants

It is never too late to start planning and working on grant applications for fall submission deadlines. Please reach out the Research Services Office as soon as you are committed to submitting a grant. As a reminder, the Research Services Office has a repository of all major Tri-Council grants for you read to understand common formatting and to leverage for ideas for wording on specific sections. We will also be releasing information on an Internal Peer Review process for Tri-Council grants over the summer.

4. FKPE Survey on Research Equipment and UofT Core Facilities

A reminder for all faculty to complete the tool for equipment management. The Research Services Office is developing a catalogue of research equipment within FKPE. The main purpose of the project is to gain a better understanding of what research technologies are available to researchers within our faculty to facilitate collaboration and depth of research. The process also aligns with VPRI's efforts to achieve these same goals for the university as a whole. A member of the Research Services Office will reach out to individual faculty members to gather that information.

5. Awards and Recognitions

In a continuing effort to increase the Awards and Recognitions for the great work that we do, the Research Services Office is actively seeking opportunities and providing support for faculty members to apply for awards. If you are aware of a potential award or other recognition (e.g., membership in a prestigious society) for which you might be competitive, please reach out to the Research Services Office (kay.li@utoronto.ca).

e. Chief Administrative Officer – P. Handley

Verbal Report

6. EDU/Institute Reports for Information

a. Mental Health and Physical Activity Research Centre – C. Sabiston

b. Centre for Sport-Related Concussion Research, Innovation and Knowledge – M. Hutchison

c. Tanenbaum Institute for Science in Sport (TISS) - I. Jacobs

Verbal Report