

Minutes of the Meeting of the KPE Faculty Council
December 12, 2025, 10am
Virtual Meeting, Zoom

Present: Catherine Amara, Chris Arnold, Michael Atkinson, Tom Babits, Joseph Baker, Robert Bentley, Michael Cournoyea, Kristine Drakich, Caroline Fusco, Terry Gardiner, Michael Hutchison, Gretchen Kerr, Jen Krol, Danielle Lawrence, Devonnia Miller, Daniel Moore, Wendy Pais, Sabrina Razack, Nicole Ryan, Catherine Sabiston, Daniel Sailofsky, Daniel Santa Mina (Vice Chair), Ashley Stirling, Erin Sullivan, Luc Tremblay (Chair), Linda Trinh, Tim Welsh, Fatima Zahra, Jackie Zehr

Guests: Dorian D'Angelo, Sharon Grandison, Sharon Ng-Morga, Carole Orane, Alex Vickers

Regrets: Amina Abdul Jalil, Kelly Arbour-Nicitopoulos, Aidan Aria, Sarah Baker, Barb Brophey, Timothy Burkhart, Joyce Chen, Hannah Chown, Simon Darnell, David Frost, Carl Georgevski, Jenna Gillen, Jack Goodman, Paul Handley, Ira Jacobs, Udditi Jalan, Paramjyot Kainth, Linda Kiefer, Amy Kirkham, Marius Locke, Darren Lowe, Jason Ma, Byron MacDonald, Lynda Mainwaring, Shankeerth Makeswaran, Jill Mallon, Tricia McGuire-Adams, Madeleine Orr, Michelle Pang, Doug Richards, Fatima Sara, Boba Samuels, Rachel Scarcello, Samira Sunderji, Tim Taha, Katherine Tamminen, Lucy Tempest, Emily Van Berkel

Secretary: Meredith Strong

1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:07 am. The Chair acknowledged the land on which the University of Toronto operates.

The Chair noted that the following administrative changes to the agenda:

1. 3.b. (Graduate Committee – M. Hutchison informed no meeting since last Faculty Council Meeting)
2. 4.b. E. Sullivan would represent KPEUA
3. 6.a. No reporting

The motion for the amended agenda was carried unanimously (D. Santa Mina, G. Kerr)

2. Approval of Minutes of October 17, 2025, meeting

Minutes were approved (C. Amara, D. Santa Mina)

Business Arising out of Minutes

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

3. Reports of the Standing Committees for Information:

a. Undergraduate Admissions – M. Locke

Motion to move to table the item was unanimously approved (C. Amara, A. Stirling)

b. Research Committee – J. Baker

See Report.

Professor Joseph Baker provided an update on the Research Committee's activities and their meeting of December 11, 2025:

He highlighted recent discussions on internal faculty research grants and TIS seed grants, noting slight changes in the review process. The committee also addressed issues related to the growing community of postdoctoral fellows, including the Research Excellence Postdoctoral Fellows Program and strategies to foster engagement and support. Baker invited questions, but none were raised.

c. Council of Athletics and Recreation – E. Sullivan, CAR Co-Chair

See Report.

Erin Sullivan reported on the Council on Athletics and Recreation (CAR). Three of five scheduled meetings for 2025–2026 were held in the fall term, along with two budget committee meetings. Sullivan outlined CAR's role in shaping sport and recreation programs across campuses and shared updates on budget discussions for 2026–2027. The final CAR meeting of the term occurred on December 11, with a vote on budget recommendations scheduled for January.

4. Student Governments' Reports

a. KPEUA – F. Zahra

KPEUA will host Lab Crawl in collaboration with the Registrar's Office early in the new year, mid- or late January. They will be asking for permission to access labs for tours to first- and second-year students, to give an opportunity to build interest for research in third and fourth year.

KPEUA has been under audit for a few years and this year, 2023 has been released. They are working towards completing 2024 and 2025.

They are looking forward to planning for Graduation at the end of the year.

b. KPEGS – E. Sullivan

KPEGS is partnering with the EDI team to offer a series of Equity workshops following the Graduate Seminars, to create a supportive and low-pressure space for students across all streams to engage in meaningful conversations about equity. She asked the faculty members to encourage student attendance. Dates are January 16, February 23, March 20 from 1:00 – 2:00 pm.

KPEGS is also partnering with Rock Solid Productions to bring adapted physical activity to the community. Floor curling will be launched in January.

Feedback has been received from graduate students regarding the placement process. KPEGS will connect with the professional stream rep for further discussion if that may be helpful.

The Bodies of Knowledge 2026 Conference will be held on May 8, immediately prior to the International Society of Qualitative Research in Sport and Exercise (QRSE) conference to hopefully draw higher attendance by people already coming to Toronto. KPEGS is applying for grants but have not yet received them. Ticket price is expected to be approximately \$30. Students are encouraged to sign up for presentations and faculty invited to also attend. Sub-committees will be formed in the new year, so students can get involved if they do not have presentations.

5. Deans' Reports

a. Dean – G. Kerr

Dean Kerr reported:

The Federal budget was released a few weeks ago, and while details are still emerging, we are encouraged to see 17 billion dollars allocated to research through the Canada Impact+ Talent

Program. This program consists of four elements: funding for Research Chairs, Emerging leaders, infrastructure, and graduate students, and post-doctoral fellows. There will be two application cycles for Research Chairs, the first at the end of January and the second in March, and nominees must be residing and working outside of Canada at the time of application. This is fast-moving item with new information emerging every day, and we'll be working in the next few weeks to identify potential nominees from KPE.

Within KPE, we currently have two searches underway for new members of the professoriate. One is for a Full Professor in Sport Science – this faculty member will also serve as the Director of the Tanenbaum Institute of Science for 5 years, renewable. The second position is in the area of Sociocultural Studies of Physical Activity and Health at the rank of either Assistant or Associate Professor. Once a short-list of candidates is identified, candidates will be invited to campus; this visit will include, amongst other elements, a public lecture on their research. Notices of these will be distributed at the appropriate time.

Dean Kerr thanked all members of Council for their contributions to the Faculty's mission and vision. She noted that it had been a very busy, productive year, and the dedication to the work of the Faculty has helped spark new ideas, open doors, and create opportunities for learning, growth, and well-being. She wished those who are able to take holidays over the next while, this time brings opportunities for rejuvenation, enjoyable winter activities, and many moments of joy. For those who continue to operate our facilities and services over the winter break, thank you for this important work. There are many students on campus who are unable to get home for the break, as well as many in our community for whom the holidays are a very difficult time. The fact that we remain open over the holidays is so important to providing opportunities for people to stay active – for their physical and mental health and for social connections. A big thank-you to those who continue to work over the holiday break. Wishing everyone a wonderful start to 2026!

b. Vice-Dean, Programs – A. Stirling

See Report. Prof Stirling highlighted the following:

Recruitment:

Since the last Faculty Council meeting, great effort has been put into recruitment. There were almost 85,000 student touchpoints over the Ontario Universities Fair, in addition to many graduate fairs and multiple engagements by the Recruitment team. The team is engaging with high school students who are applying to come this year, as well as targeting future students.

Graduate Capstone:

The Graduate Capstone event on December 5 was very successful. Prof Stirling thanked all attendees who came out to support the graduate students, with special appreciation for Prof Danielle Lawrence for hosting the event and for her leadership in supporting that cohort of graduate students.

LEAF Grant:

Application was made to the University for funds to support the new equipment in teaching and learning labs. This is part of the broader strategy to enhance technology, innovation, and augment to the best equipment for students in their lab experiences. Prof Stirling thanked Prof Amara for her

leadership in the preparation of the grant application and also all other faculty members involved in the process. The submission is a huge step forward for the Faculty and hopefully successful award of funds will be realized.

UTQAP:

Preparations are underway for the University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process Self-Study. This is a large process that we must undergo every 7 to 8 years, which is a mandatory requirement of the University and the Ministry. It is an assessment of the quality of our programs, which we use to inform, and make recommendations for improvement over the next cycle. Activity will be ramped up in the new year, with particular focus on curriculum mapping.

Active Health Living:

KPE will continue to offer activities over the holiday period, with programming details on the KPE website. Prof Stirling thanked all those facilitating these activities and making the opportunities possible, as well as the Communications team for clarity in outlining the adjusted schedules over the break.

For Intramurals and Tri-Campus, there were 7,700 registrants this past term. KPE needs more space! Prof Stirling noted that it is wonderful that U of T students across all divisions and across all three campuses are so engaged and keen to be engaging in KPE Intramural and Tri-Campus sport programs.

Women's Learn to Move sessions:

This is a growing program, designed intentionally to support access for beginners into physical activity, those that may not have previous experience in instructional programs or an activity, as a way to get them comfortable and introduced to that environment and to various activities. It is a part of the main priorities in this area in supporting equity, access, and engagement for all students, and a diverse range of activities.

Inter University and High Performance:

The Fall season was tremendously successful. KPE successfully hosted our U-Sport championships for Men's Soccer. The Women's Soccer team was also engaged in U-Sport championships, and both finished in the top 6.

There were many honors, given to both student athletes, academic, as well as community engagement, as well as specific OUA coaching honors. Specifically in coaching, Angelo Cavalluzzo and Nabil Tadros, were awarded OUA Coaches of the year for Soccer and Tennis respectively.

Academic Excellence Breakfast held on December 3:

This breakfast honours all of the student-athletes who achieved academic excellence in the year prior, so these are athletes who achieved a minimum GPA of 3.5. There were 322 student-athletes in attendance from across all divisions of the University, representing almost 37% of the student-athlete population. This statistic indicates that to have high-flyer academics in academic programs, we can now confidently say that student-athletes need to be recruited, because our student-athlete percentage is higher than that of non-student athletes at the University. We have seen a 7%

increase in the number of student athletes who are recognized with a minimum of 3.5 GPA over the previous year. Holistic development and focus on student-athletes continues to improve, and their success is not only across athletics, but as well as academics and all aspects of their university experience. Prof Stirling noted that it is wonderful to be able to highlight the value of University sport and what the student athletes bring to the University.

Recognition of student-athletes in specific teams:

Track and Field – over 20

Women' Rugby – 17

Men's Hockey – 16, with team average of 3.4 GPA

c. Associate Dean, Research – T. Welsh

See Report.

Highlights:

University of Toronto Research Excellence Postdoctoral Fellows Program:

A process has been developed over the last month to assess. It is an exciting opportunity to promote and develop independent researchers who are at that transition point between their PhD and obtaining a full faculty position. Details will be announced soon.

Science Café:

KPE hosted on Zoom on November 19, featuring Profs Baker and Tremblay and some of our community partners. Prof Welsh thanked all members of IT and the PR and Comms teams for their support, and the Research Services Office for bringing it together. At least 175 individuals, or log-ons were tracked.

The next café is planned for the Winter term with the topic around Women and Girls in Sports and Physical Activity. More details to follow.

Internal Faculty Research and the TISS Seed Grants competitions:

The results will be shared at a future meeting. The competition has been wrapped up, and the results will be communicated to the respective administrators and then shared with the applicants.

Grants awarded:

The Research Services Office dealt with 42 grant applications. Prof Welsh thanked Kay Li and Jason Small for their support and the faculty members who contributed to those grants. New grants are coming up in the new year, and the RSO will continue to provide support for those. Any questions or follow-ups can be directed to Kay Li or Prof Welsh.

Chief Administrative Officer – D. D'Angelo for P. Handley

Doriano D'Angelo provided updates on infrastructure projects, including the Benson Elevator Project (completion anticipated summer 2026) and the student lounge ramp (expected January completion).

He announced that the Back Campus Field turf replacement has been completed. According to the International Hockey Federation (FIH) website, U of T has the only dry turf field innovation category in North America, a first and expected to be very busy over the Spring and Summer.

6. EDU and Institute Reports

a. Centre for Motor Control – L. Tremblay

See Report.

Prof. Tremblay reported on the Center for Motor Control's successful third annual Motor Control Day and a guest lecture on mental imagery.

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

See Report.

Prof Sabiston confirmed the MPARC Seminar on December 16 at 1:30 in BN307, with 3 colleagues from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, presenting on multidisciplinary areas:

- Professor Sit – Promoting Physical Activity and Health Among Disabled Children and Adolescents;
- Professor Poon – High-intensity Interval Training, Intermittent Dieting and Cardiometabolic Health;
- Professor Yang – Biomechanical Approaches to the Prevention of Falls and Injury

c. Centre for Sport Policy Studies – D. Sailofsky for S. Darnell

The 3rd Annual Donnelly Lecture for Sport Policy Studies will be held in February 2026, with details to follow.

7. Other Business/Announcements

The Chair announced that the Executive Committee has decided to have the January 23 meeting, which was on tentative hold.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 with wishes all around for Happy Holidays (Motion: C. Amara).

The motion was carried.

December 12, 2025 Faculty Council Reports

4. Reports of the Standing Committees of Council for Information

a. Undergraduate Admissions – M. Locke

Verbal Report

b. Graduate Committee – M. Hutchison

Verbal Report

c. Research Committee – J. Baker

The Research Committee met twice since the previous Faculty Council, on October 28, 2025 and December 11, 2025. The following report covers only the October 28, 2025. Any highlights from the December 11, 2025 will be provided verbally, with a more detailed report provided in the next Faculty Council Meeting.

1) Artificial Intelligence

Research Committee discussed the value and role of a potential KPE-specific policy or guidelines on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in research and research-related activities, such as the writing of grant applications and reports. The Committee determined that guidelines will be helpful for the KPE context as long as such guidelines are consistent with UofT policy and guidelines. The full AI Task Force – Research Working Group Report can be found here:

https://www.utoronto.ca/sites/default/files/2025-06/AI%20Task%20Force_Research.pdf . Key highlights for research-related activities include:

- i. AI maybe used in the generation of grant applications with understanding that, in accordance with existing agency policies, applicants are responsible for ensuring that information included in their grant applications is true, accurate and complete and that all sources are appropriately acknowledged and referenced.
- ii. Under no circumstances can AI be used in the evaluation of grant or manuscripts for peer-review. The use of online and AI tools for these purposes is strictly prohibited.

2) Annual Research Report

Each year, the Research Services Office works closely with the Public Relations and Communications Office to produce a report on the research activities of the KPE. The Research Committee had a discussion around the process of developing the report and what information could be included and/or removed. Main considerations for information that could be included next year include: invited talks, student/postdoctoral fellow awards, and more highlights of knowledge mobilization activities. Any addition feedback and suggestions can be sent to the RSO via

adr.kpe@utoronto.ca .

3) Review of Grants Administered within KPE

Research Committee had a discussion regarding the process for evaluating and recommending approval of submissions for the TISS-KPE Seed Grant, Internal Faculty Research Grant, and SSHRC Institutional Grant Competitions. The committee recommendations were forwarded to the respective administrators for final decision and approval.

d. Council of Athletics & Recreation

Three of the five 2025–26 Council of Athletics and Recreation (CAR) meetings were held in the Fall Term, in addition to two CAR Budget Committee meetings

The first of five 2025–26 Council of Athletics and Recreation (CAR) meetings was held on October 9. Co-Chairs Hanna Chown and Erin Sullivan returned this year to lead Council through both the General Meetings and the upcoming 2026–27 Sport & Recreation Draft Budget discussions. The 40-member Council, which includes representation from students, UTM, UTSC, Hart House, staff, faculty, and other campus partners, received an orientation presentation outlining the extensive range of programs and services available to students across all three U of T campuses.

At the November 6 CAR meeting, program updates, Varsity Board reports, and Intramural reports were provided. CAR plays an influential role in shaping sport, physical activity, and recreation programs at the St. George Campus, across Tri-Campus Sport, Intramurals, and the Varsity Blues.

On November 27, the CAR Budget Committee reviewed the 2026-2027 draft budget and Sport & Recreation and recommended that the draft budget be presented to the full Council of Athletics and Recreation membership on December 11. In early January, the Council of Athletics and Recreation will vote on the recommendation to present the budget to the Council of Student Services (COSS) on January 14.

5. Student Governments' Reports

a. KPEUA (TBD)

Verbal Report

b. KPEGS (TBD)

Verbal Report

6. Deans' Report

a. Dean's Report – G. Kerr

Verbal Report

b. Vice-Dean, Programs – A. Stirling

Office of the Registrar & Student Services: Fall KPE student recruitment activity remained strong, with the Ontario Universities Fair drawing over 85,000 visitors and generating nearly 9,000 prospective student connections, alongside continued interest across undergraduate and graduate outreach events. Preparations for upcoming academic admission deadlines between January and March 2026 are underway and Fall Convocation and the Student Awards Reception were successfully celebrated. The launch of the student-facing Student Advising System has been deferred to Summer 2026. KINections had several well-attended events this past term, including Intro to Grad School, Career Café, Food and Culture Fair, Upper Year KINections for first years, and a Bollywood Dance Workshop.

Academic Programs: Several key activities are currently underway to enhance teaching and curriculum development. Led by Associate Dean Catherine Amara, a Learning and Education Advancement Fund (LEAF) application has been submitted for Teaching Labs. Improvements to the course evaluations are ongoing, and a comprehensive review of existing labs is being conducted. KPE is developing a plan to integrate civil discourse into the student experience and curriculum. This initiative is intended to promote respectful dialogue, critical thinking, and inclusive engagement across academic and co-curricular settings. Curriculum mapping will begin in the new year as a part of the University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP) self-study. Additionally, a recent Teaching & Learning session saw a positive turnout and good discussion focused on classroom engagement and course-based research ethics.

Active Healthy Living: Student experience and co-curricular engagement remain robust, with high participation across Active Healthy Living programs. Intramurals and Tri-Campus Sport reached 7,700 participants and expanded offerings with new initiatives, including a well-attended Tri-Campus visit to Hart House Farms with 70 students, and new Women's "Learn to Move" sessions. Aquatics programs are scheduled for the Fall Exam period, Winter Break, and Winter 2026, with instructional programs including new women-only Swim to Survive sessions added. Operational improvements continue through enhanced system monitoring, standardized procedures, and service adjustments. Overall, these updates reflect ongoing efforts to enhance program quality, access, and engagement across the campus community.

Interuniversity & High Performance Athletics: The Varsity Blues achieved another exceptional fall season, securing multiple OUA and U SPORTS championships. Baseball earned both the 2025 OUA and U SPORTS titles. Men's and Women's Soccer each captured the 2025 OUA Championship and achieved top-six national finishes. Other OUA team highlights include field hockey (silver), women's golf (silver), women's rowing (bronze), and softball (bronze). Individual honours were numerous, with U SPORTS and OUA awards recognizing student-athletes, as well as OUA Coaches of the Year (Soccer - Angelo Cavalluzzo and Tennis - Nabil Tadros). The University of Toronto also successfully hosted the U SPORTS Men's Soccer Championships, November 6-9, 2025. Recent staffing updates

include new coaching hires in figure skating and badminton, and the hiring of student-athlete services staff.

c. Associate Dean, Research – T. Welsh

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

- 1) University of Toronto Research Excellence Postdoctoral Fellows Program
The University of Toronto has launched a new program to attract/retain top-notch early-career academics and to help them develop and expand their research expertise. The program is designed to empower postdoctoral scholars with the autonomy to pursue an ambitious research program, while benefitting from close collaboration with leading faculty and access to tailored professional and career development supports. Funding includes the full cost of a two-year postdoctoral salary and associated employers' costs, plus an additional \$10,000 in annual independent research funding. The application and adjudication process will be announced shortly. In the meantime, consider reaching out to potential applicants.
- 2) Science Café
KPE organized and hosted a Science Café that featured Profs. Baker and Tremblay. The topic was talent in sport: how to define talent and what factors are barriers to identifying and developing talent in sport. The Science Café was hosted on Zoom on November 19, 2025. There were over 175 attendees. A video will be posted soon. A reminder that previous Science Cafés and Lectures are posted on the Faculty Website (<https://kpe.utoronto.ca/academics-researchconferences-seminars-symposia/public-seminars-symposia>). The next Science Café will be early in the winter term and will focus on women and girls' sports and physical activity.
- 3) Faculty Research Grants:
The Internal Faculty Research Grant and the TISS-KPE Seed Grant competition has just been completed. The results of the competition will be announced at the next Faculty Council.
- 4) External Research Grants
This has been a busy year with 42 grants and fellowship applications submitted in 2025 across Tri-Council and other agencies. Winter/Spring competitions for CIHR and SSHRC are just around the corner. Please reach out to RSO with your ideas. Upcoming deadlines include:
 - a. SSHRC Insight Development Grants:
 - i. Internal deadline: January 22, 2026
 - ii. Submission deadline: January 28, 2026
 - b. CIHR Project Grants
 - i. Registration deadline: February 4, 2026
 - ii. Internal deadline: Late February (TBA)
 - iii. Submission deadline: March 4, 2026

5) Awards and Recognitions

In an effort to increase the Awards and Recognitions for the great work that we do, the RSO 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 RSO (kay.li@utoronto.ca).

d. Chief Administrative Officer – P. Handley

Verbal Report

7. EDU/Institute Reports for Information

a. Centre for Sport Policy Studies – S. Darnell

Verbal Report

b. Centre for Motor Control – L. Tremblay

The Centre for Motor Control hosted the third annual Motor Control Day on November 14, with three (3) hands-on rotations led by Anthonia Aina (Ph.D. candidate with Prof. Joyce Chen), Prof. Welsh, and me. We operated at maximum capacity with 45 high-school students and received very positive feedback in a short satisfaction survey conducted after the event. Accordingly, we are considering expanding through increasing the size of the rotation groups and/ or running rotations both in the morning and the afternoon. We are very grateful for the support of Nicole Ryan and Stephanie Convery from the Registrar's Office for their invaluable support in coordinating the event and for the support of the student ambassadors who also contributed to the success of the event.

In addition, the Centre for Motor Control hosted a talk on December 4. The talk was delivered by Prof. Sarah Kraeutner, Assistant Professor, Michael Smith Health Research British Columbia Scholar, and Heart & Stroke New Investigator in the Department of Psychology at the University of British Columbia (Okanagan). Prof. Kraeutner directs the Neuroplasticity, Imagery, and Motor Behaviour Lab with research dedicated in the areas of motor learning through covert practice and stroke-related neuroscience, encompassing both basic and applied investigations. The title of Prof. Kraeutner's talk was: 'What makes motor imagery 'motor'? Exploring the neural basis of motor imagery ability'.

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

1. First session testing integration of moveu.happyu within high schools was held Thursday November 27 which saw over 60 high school students using the gym spaces and innovating on ways to bring programming to their school. School board representatives were also in attendance. Great feedback!

December 12, 2025 Faculty Council Reports

2. Mparc team presented at the Games 2025 conference in London UK as the Canadian team developing global youth sport mental health guidelines alongside colleagues from the USA, UK, Europe, and Australia.

3. Mparc continues to lead a consortium focused on intercollegiate student athlete mental health. We are in the midst of a concept map research study to gather insights on needs and priorities across the country. If you work or play in this space, and know any coaches, athletes, administrators, or care team members etc. who might be interested in participating, please email catherine.sabiston@utoronto.ca for more details. It takes 5 minutes or less to take part!

4. Mparc is co-hosting colleagues from the Chinese University of Hong Kong the week of December 15th. Stay tuned for details of an invited talk.