

**York University  
Faculty of Health Council**

**Notice of Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 5, 2025  
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm  
HYBRID – Senate Chamber, Ross N940 & Zoom**

**Agenda**

- 1. Chair’s Remarks**
- 2. Business arising from the minutes**
- 3. Dean’s Remarks**
- 4. Report of the Curriculum Committee**
- 5. Senator’s Report: January 2025**
- 6. Presentation: Senate Honorary Degrees and Awards, Catriona Buick & Lauren Sergio**
- 7. Other Business**
  - Call for Nominations: Honorific Professorships**

**Consent Agenda**

Consent agenda items are deemed to be approved or received unless, prior to the start of the meeting, one or more Council members ask that they be dealt with as regular business.

1. Minutes of the Meeting of January 8, 2025

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Faculty of Health meetings support our mission to provide an innovative and supportive environment for learning, discovery and engagement. To ensure our common value of diversity is fully reflected, our events, publications and meetings make every effort to be accessible to all.

**2024-2025 Faculty of Health Council Meetings, 3:00pm–4:30pm:**

- Wednesday, March 5, 2025

- Wednesday, April 2, 2025
- Wednesday, May 7, 2025

**All are welcome and encouraged to attend!**

Faculty of Health  
FACULTY COUNCIL  
Wednesday, January 8, 2025  
Hybrid Meeting: Senate Chamber Ross N940 and ZOOM

Minutes

Attendance: F. Abam, F. Ahmad, M. Aitken, A. Al-Habbobi, F. Amis, C. Ardern, A. Battaglia, G. Binsted, G. Boateng, Y. Bohr, T. Boritz, S. Bowerman, A. Brankley, D. Brown, C. Buick, K. Campbell, A. Chum, T. Cleworth, R. Coatworth-Puspoky, J. Connolly, T. Daly, F. Dastjerdi, A. Day, A. De Lisio, J. Eastwood, S. Evans, K. Fergus, J. Fraser-Thomas, W. Gage, L. Gagliese, L. Ginsburg, J. Goldberg, R. Haghiri-Vijeh, M. Hamadeh, L. Harris, M. Herbert, S. Hiller, L. Hynes, V. Jamnik, H. Jenkin, C. Kurtz Landy, N. Lewis, S. Lin, J. MacDonnell, A. Macpherson, V. Mago, C. Mallette, M. Malta, A. Mapp, J. Martin, B. Meisner, T. Mgwigwi, G. Mochizuki, A. Moore, S. Moradian, M. Morrow, S. Murtha, A. Narimani, L. Nicholson, R. Ophir, M. Orlando, K. Page-Cutrara, A. Paul, A. Pavakopethan, K. Pedernal, T. Penney, A. Perry, C. Perry, D. Phillips, L. Pierce, A. Piluso, H. Rana, J. Rawana, A. Richards, N. Richardson, R. Robbio, R. Rodney, E. Roudier, C. Rowan, P. Safai, N. Sangiuliano, E. Schraa, L. Sergio, M. Singh, S. Singh, P. Tsisis, C. van Daalen-Smith, L. van Dreumel, R. Venkatesaperumal, A.M. Viens, B. Weobong, N. Wilson, H. Wong, L. Zannella

Guests: J. Abrams, M. Amalathas, B. Ashour, M. Beharry, D. Burrell, P. Calderon-Valdivia, A. Charnaw, C.L. Cheng, F. Clarke, A. Cooney, C. Corson, Y. Delaviz, S. Desai, N. Di Rienzo, B. Fernandes, E. Flores, J. Fung, A. Furlano, R. Gritsyuk, J. Hard, K. Hetherington, R. Maharajh, E. Marston, J. McGillivray, S. Mitchell-Hutson, A. Ozog, S. Pereira, L. Philipps, MKL Poon, J. Sundaramoorthy, A. Taves, V. Thomas, B. Thompson, V. Thompson, S. Winton, J. Wyman

**1. Chair's remarks**

A. Moore welcomed members and explained how the meeting would be conducted in a hybrid setting.

**2. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**3. Presentation: School of Medicine**

C. Perry presented to Council. He outlined the in principle motion, what approval in principle means at this time and the key considerations for this vote. He provided an overview of the School of Medicine Proposal which included background context, organizational structure and information on admissions and resourcing. He concluded his remarks by emphasizing the unique opportunity York has to proceed with a School of Medicine and the cost of missing this opportunity.

A question was raised regarding the type of consultation and support current students can provide in developing the School of Medicine. K. Page Cutrara and M. Herbert emphasized that while the program is not set to launch until 2028, there will be opportunities for consultation and collaboration with current student groups as the process progresses, ensuring that the student perspective is incorporated.

#### 4. Report of the Executive and Planning Committee

Vice-Chair T. Bortiz motioned, seconded by C. Ardern, to the approval in principle to: Establish a School of Medicine as a new academic unit within the Faculty of Health at York University.

A. Moore indicated that the results of the vote would be circulated following the meeting once they had been verified. The results of the vote were circulated via email later that evening.

The motion carried.

#### 5. Presentation: Faculties of the Future

L. Philipps presented to Council on the Faculties of the Future report.

She noted the challenges faced by both small and large units including staffing, planning, contract faculty and workload inequities in both environments. She discussed the low graduation rates experienced by the university and the challenges that students have experienced navigating campus, course enrolment and learning/understanding their degree requirements. She noted that there is a high demand for co-op education programs. Students liked these programs because they felt that co-op provided them with additional learning opportunities.

L. Philipps asked Council members if any of these challenges resonated with the Faculty of Health? She asked Council members to consider if a case can be made for change and/or evolution of current structures to help address the challenges. She asked how these conversations can be productive, while finding a co-ownership model for the process and structures to evolve.

Council members addressed the following:

- Challenges to fill leadership positions.
- How does academic/departmental identity impact potential merges?
- How can units effectively share similar courses, or how can the Faculty offer interdisciplinary opportunities to help lighten workloads?
- How can an effective merge strategy be created while still acknowledging and honouring the differences between people and disciplines?
- Why is there a focus on absolute size (of faculty, units, etc) rather than a ratio of faculty to students?
- Graduate student supervision ratio will also need considerations.
- Is there a sense of timeline to initiate changes?
- There is a focus on curricular coordination/communication across units within one faculty. Are there opportunities across multiple faculties? What supports will be offered between faculties? How will communications be supported?
- It was suggested to use the Neuroscience program to reflect on some of the challenges that arose around inter-faculty curriculum development. How can those challenges present themselves as learning opportunities?
- How does the current budget model potentially hinder the collaborations that need to take place?
- The university sector is experiencing a decline in enrolment. Where are the students going and why? Can York replicate what is enticing students to enrol elsewhere and start to bring them here?

## **6. Dean's Remarks**

Dean Ardern welcomed Council members.

He thanked members for attending Council to partake in the important vote regarding the School of Medicine. He acknowledged that this was the first step of many to move forward with deeper and meaningful discussions about the future of the School of Medicine including governance, admissions and curricular components. He stressed that there is still much to accomplish but that there is optimism and excitement to help grow the faculty in new ways with lots of opportunities for collaboration. He also thanked Professors C. Perry, N. Sangiuliano, the members of the planning group and anyone who has engaged in this process in various working groups across the Faculty of Health.

Dean Ardern thanked L. Philipps and her team for presenting the Faculties of the Future report to Council and acknowledged that there is also lots of work to be done following this presentation.

He ended his remarks with kudos and acknowledgements from both December and January.

## **7. Senator's Report: December 2024**

In lieu of an in-person Senator's report for December 2024, a link to the Senate synopsis was provided online and Council members were encouraged to review the materials. Questions pertaining to Senate items can be directed to the Faculty Council email for further follow-up.

## **8. Other Business**

There was no other business.

The meeting adjourned.

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J. Fung, Council Secretary

ITEMS FOR ACTION (4):

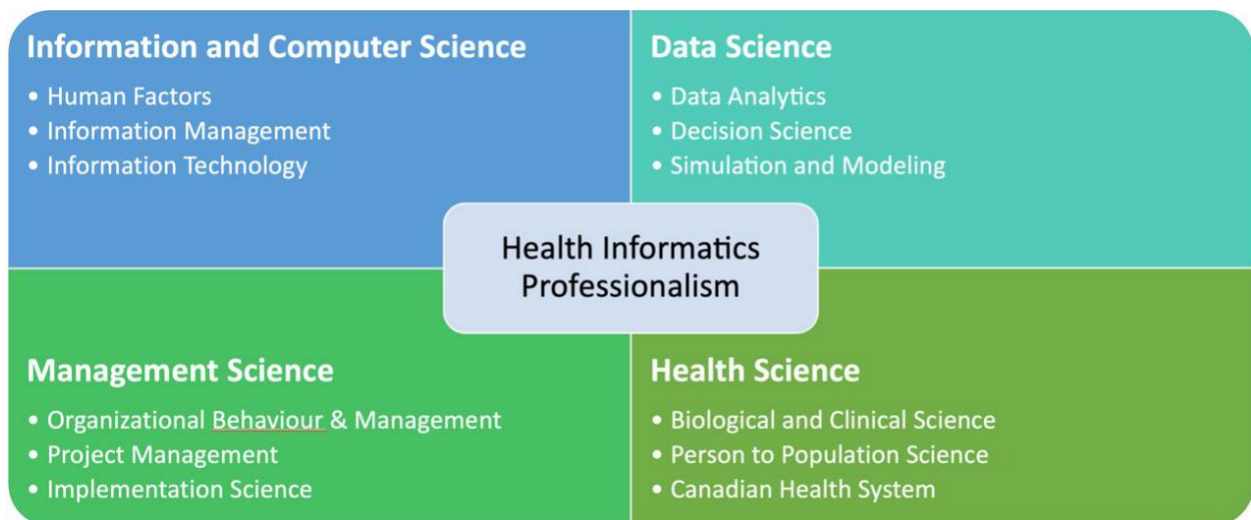
1. School of Health Policy and Management

Changes to a major requirement in the Health Policy, Management & Digital Health BHS Specialized Honours and Honours Minor • School of Health Policy and Management • Faculty of Health

The Curriculum Committee recommends that Council approves changes to the major requirement of HH/HLST 3350 3.00 and HH/HLST 3341 3.00 in the BHS Specialized Honours Health Policy, Management & Digital Health and Minor housed in the School of Health Policy and Management, set out as Appendix A, effective FW 2025-26.

Rationale:

Machine learning and AI have become an essential skill in the market. It is becoming a necessity to have such skills for informaticians as substantiated by latest reports (report 1, report 2). Recently, a group of researchers, educators and subject matter experts in health informatics (director, professor, advisor, and co-operative education coordinator) met to discuss changes in health informatics education and conducted also a scoping review about education in health informatics. Their findings were the basis of a new health informatics competency framework (see figure below).



This emerging set of competencies includes the new field of Data Science that

incorporates knowledge in data analytics: descriptive, diagnostics and predictive analytics; that are acquired through machine learning.

It is now clear that machine learning for health has become a must to have in today's informatics work and research environments, and that programs need to update their curriculum accordingly. Machine learning gives the student a new set of skills needed for the job market. It also prepares those students who plan to continue graduate studies for the growing field of research in the domain of AI and machine learning for Health, and other fields such as data sciences.

HLST 3350 (Analytics and machine learning) is the only course in analytics and machine learning that we offer and that was introduced recently as an elective course. On the other hand, and in terms of practical skills, HLST 3341 (Health Informatics II) does not provide new practical skills for students and might include a lab component (depending on the instructor) that covers practical skills enclosed in other courses particularly HLST 3320 (Databases).

In light of this, we are suggesting moving HLST 3341 (Informatics II) from the list of core courses to the list of electives and HLST 3350 (Analytics and machine learning) from the list of electives to the list of as a core/required course for health informatics students in the undergraduate degree. This switch will allow us to prepare our student better to be competitive in the job market and for future graduate studies in data science. The field is shifting, and we needed to keep up with it.

## 2. School of Global Health

Changes to the admission criteria in the Honours Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Honours Bachelor of Science (BSc) Degree Programs • School of Global Health • Faculty of Health

The Curriculum Committee recommends that Council approves the following changes to the admissions requirements for the Honours BA and BSc degree programs in Global Health, set out as Appendix B, effective F2026:

- Honours BA - remove the science requirement and require five additional 4U or M courses, with Biology (SBI4U) listed as "recommended"
- Honours BSc - add Biology (SBI4U) as a science option

Rationale:

The proposed modification to the admission criteria for the Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Global Health [OUAC code YHS] and the Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Global Health [OUAC Code YHT] aims to: a) enhance the program's accessibility for prospective students with diverse educational backgrounds who are interested in studying the multidisciplinary aspects of GH; and b) better align the program with other degree offerings in the Faculty of Health.

For the BA in Global Health, the proposed modification is to remove the science pre-requisite requirements and require 5 additional 4U or M courses, with Biology (SBI4U) as 'recommended.' This change recognizes that students interested in the social sciences and humanities may not have pursued advanced science courses in high school. This modification aligns with the multidisciplinary nature of GH and ensures the BA program is inclusive and accessible to a wider range of prospective students with varied academic backgrounds. This change also aligns with the BA in Psychology at York that requires only ENG4U as well as the BA in Health Studies that requires ENG4U and 4U Math (recommended).

For the BSc in Global Health, the proposed modification is to add Biology (SBI4U) as a science option to the pre-requisites alongside Chemistry (SCH4U) and Physics (SPH4U).

As highlighted by the BSc curriculum's inclusion of Anatomy & Physiology courses (GH 1001 3.0 and GH 1002 3.0), Biology should be included as a science option. The addition of Biology would provide greater accessibility to prospective students who may have a stronger background and/or interest in Biology, compared to Chemistry and Physics, to be eligible for admission to the BSc in GH.

### 3. Neuroscience

Changes to a course option in the Molecular & Cellular stream in the Neuroscience Bachelor of Science Specialized Honours Degree Program.

The Curriculum Committee recommends that Council approves the reclassification of HH/PSYC 4380 3.00 Seminar in Neuroscience: Rhythms of the Brain from the Systems Neuroscience stream to the Molecular & Cellular Neuroscience stream as set out in Appendix C, effective FW 2025-26.

Rationale:



These adjustments do not affect the program's learning outcomes. One of the stream courses, HH/PSYC4380 - Seminar in Neuroscience: Rhythms of the Brain (3.00), was previously categorized under the Systems stream but should correctly be classified under the Molecular & Cellular stream. This reclassification better aligns the material covered in the course.

Moving this course from the Systems stream to the Molecular & Cellular stream reduces the Systems stream options from ten to nine but increases Molecular & Cellular options from five to six, ensuring balanced choices for students.

#### 4. School of Nursing

Length of Completion Policy for the 4-Year Direct Entry BScN degree program •  
School of Nursing • Faculty of Health

The Curriculum Committee and the Committee on Examinations and Academic Standards recommends that Council approves the policy on the length of completion for the 4-Year Direct Entry BScN degree, as set out in Appendix D, effective FW 2025-26.

#### Rationale:

This is a new undergraduate program that does not have a length of completion policy; other BScN programs have such a policy in effect. Time limitations are important to ensure cohesion and continuity of content, current competence and associated patient safety within the context of professional nursing education. (Please refer to the Policy for Undergraduate Nursing Student Leave of Absence for other related information.)

These time limitations consider the program's structures and plans of study, as well as the frequency of course offerings, and the degree to which nursing knowledge and practice change over time.