

**York University  
Faculty of Health Council**

**Notice of Meeting**

**Wednesday, December 6, 2023  
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 Executive and Planning Committee**
- 5. Report of the Curriculum Committee**
- 6. Presentation: Community Supports and Services, Nona Robinson and Yukimi Henry**
- 7. Faculty of Health Strategic Plan Endorsement, Parissa Safai**
- 8. Lightning Talk: Healthy muscles for healthy bodies: Biomedical Innovation in the Muscle Health Research Centre, Chris Perry, School of Kinesiology and Health Science**
- 9. Senator’s Report: November 2023**
- 10. Other Business**

**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 November 1, 2023**
- 2. Report of the Graduate Committee**

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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.

**2023-2024 Faculty of Health Council Meetings, 3:00pm–4:30pm:**

- Wednesday, January 10, 2024
- Wednesday, February 7, 2024
- Wednesday, March 6, 2024
- Wednesday, April 3, 2024
- Wednesday, May 1, 2024

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

Faculty of Health  
FACULTY COUNCIL  
Wednesday, November 1, 2023  
Hybrid Meeting: Senate Chamber Ross N940 and ZOOM

Minutes

Attendance: M. Aitken, C. Ardern, I. Aslam, M. Barranti, A. Belcastro, A. Berthelot-Raffard, G. Binstead, G. Boateng, Y. Bohr, S. Bowerman, C. Buick, K. Campbell, J. Check, J. Choiniere, R. Coatsworth-Puspoky, J. Connolly, R. da Silveira Gorman, T. Daly, M. Dastjerdi, A. De Lisio, E. Dolatabadi, O. Eyawo, K. Fergus, R. Gastrock, J. Goldberg, R. Gunter, M. Hamadeh, J. Hurley, V. Jamnik, A. Josse, A. F. Khalid, S. Lin, L. Lum, R. Malekzadeh, C. Mallette, B. Meisner, A. Moore, M. Morrow, Y. Nakamura, B. Oraziatti, K. Page Cutrara, A. Paul, K. Pedernal, M. Poirier, J. Rawana, R. Robbio, C. Rowan, Am. Sadeghi, P. Safai, E. Schraa, L. Seto Nielsen, M. Singh, N. Stuckless, C. Till, C. Ukabiala, L. van Dreumel, A.M. Viens, N. viva Davis Halifax, N. Wilson, T. Xerri, L. Zhen

Guest, R. Bishop, D. Burrell, P. Calderon Valdivia, Y. Delaviz, J. Fung, A. Furlano, A. Gaukel, G. Gringhuis, J. Hard, N. Hemmings, K. Hetherington, A. Lam, C. Murray, A. Pitt, M. Pogorzelski, V. Thompson

**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. Dean's Remarks**

Associate Dean K. Page-Cutrara extended regrets from Dean Peters and provided the Dean's remarks on his behalf.

K. Page-Cutrara noted that the Faculty of Health Strategic Plan is in its final stages and that Dean Peters is looking forward to the formal endorsement of the plan in December.

The remarks were concluded with acknowledgements and kudos.

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

R. Bishop provided the report.

There was a call for nominations for current Council position vacancies including: Vice Chair of Council, At-large member on the Executive and Planning, At-large member on the Petitions Committee and Faculty of Health Senator. Nominations and/or expressions of interest for the remaining Council vacancies can be made to K. Hetherington via email.

G. Boateng was acclaimed as an at-large member of the Executive and Planning Committee.

## **5. Report of the Curriculum Committee**

Professor C. Rowan motioned, seconded by A.M. Viens that Council approve the changes in the degree requirement for the Specialized Honours BSc and BA in Global Health (Health Promotion and Disease Prevention) housed in Global Health and in the Certificate in Aging, set out in Appendix A, effective FW 2024-25. The motion carried.

## **6. DEDI Update**

A. Gaukel and A. Pitt provided the presentation. The strategy launched in May 2023 after a 2.5 year process. The presentation focused on the evolution of the strategy since its inception, including a shift in naming from EDI to DEDI, adding a glossary, adding principles (as Decolonization, Reconciliation, Indigenous Rights and Rights of the Planet) and providing a revised strategic schematic.

It was noted that the glossary defines terms representing a moment in time and provides context on how the strategy was developed. It was noted that the glossary will be seen as a living contribution to the strategy and will require ongoing revision as a shared vocabulary. Phase one of the DEDI Toolkit will be launched on November 16, 2023. This will support individual learning and practical tools.

M. Morrow, Co-Chair of the DEDI Sub-Committee in the Faculty of Health provided an update on the work of the sub-committee. She noted the importance of ensuring the work is in alignment with the university strategy and is inclusive of the work being undertaken at the unit level. A first report was shared with the authors of the working group report and the Sub-committee will work carefully to incorporate feedback.

## **7. Discussion: The Future of Pedagogy Task Force Recommendations**

A. Lam, Co-Chair of the Task Force presented to Council. She provided context and background regarding the Task Force, its mandate, and deliverables. She also outlined the various working groups within the Task Force. She stressed the need to focus on how to best teach our diverse student population and how to change student expectations regarding in person learning.

The five preliminary Task Force recommendations included:

- Expand and enhance blended learning.
- Encourage instructors to engage in lifelong learning of pedagogy, via ongoing professional development and dedicated support.
- Establish formal linkages between student assessment and learning outcomes at the course and program levels.
- Accelerate the expansion of community-based experiential education (EE) and work-integrated learning (WIL) opportunities.
- Support AI literacy among instructors, students, and staff.

A. Lam thanked Council members and provided contact information for feedback.

## **8. Faculty of Health Strategic Plan**

Professor P. Safai provided an update on the status of the Strategic Plan, giving a recap of the materials discussed at the October meeting. She notified Council members that a motion to endorse the Faculty of Health Strategic Plan will be presented at the December Council meeting.

**9. Lightning Talk**

Professor K. Campbell provided the presentation and answered questions from Council members.

**10. Senator's Report**

In lieu of an in-person Senator's report for October 2023, the Senate synopsis was posted to the Council website. Members were encouraged to review the materials.

The full reports are available on the Senate and Faculty Council websites for review.

**11. Other Business**

There was no other business.

The meeting adjourned.

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R. Bishop, Secretary

Report of the Executive and Planning Committee  
of the Faculty of Health  
December 2023

1. Call for Nominations

Processes to fill vacancies on Standing Committees of Council will begin shortly in Schools/Department. Please connect with your nominating committee for more information.

The Faculty of Health Executive and Planning Committee is seeking nominations for the following vacancies:

- Vice-Chair of Council
- At-large member of the Petitions Committee (1 vacancy)

a) Vice-Chair of Council

Vice-Chair of Faculty of Health Council (two-year term, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2025 – first year serving as Vice-Chair, second year serving as Chair)

At the time of the writing this report, the Executive and Planning Committee of the Faculty of Health Council did not receive any nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of Council.

Additional nominations may be made from the floor of Council.

b) At-large seat on Petitions Committee (1 vacancy)

Two at-large seats on the Petitions Committee (two-year term of office, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2025).

At the time of the writing this report, the Executive and Planning Committee received one nomination for the two available positions of at-large member of the Petitions Committee: Fay Dastjerdi, School of Nursing has been acclaimed to this position. One position remains unfilled.

Outgoing at-large member:

Kristine Pedernal, School of Nursing

\*The two members who are elected at-large by Council shall not be from the same School/Department.

c) Faculty of Health Senator

Faculty of Health Senator (three-year term of office, July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2026)

See <http://secretariat.info.yorku.ca/senate/> for more information.

At the time of the writing this report, the Executive and Planning Committee received the following nomination for the position of Faculty of Health Senator: Mathieu Poirier, School of Global Health. Mathieu has been acclaimed to the position.

Report of the Curriculum Committee  
Faculty of Health Council  
December 2023

#### ITEMS FOR ACTION (2):

##### 1. School of Kinesiology and Health Science

Establishment of a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Movement and Health • School of Kinesiology and Health Science • Faculty of Health

The Curriculum Committee recommends that Council approves the establishment of a 90-Credit Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science in Movement and Health degree options housed in School of Kinesiology and Health Science, set out as Appendix A, effective FW 2024-25:

#### Rationale:

The B.A. and B.Sc. in Kinesiology and Health Science that are currently offered are, of necessity, honours programs. Like Nursing, Kinesiology is a regulated health care profession in the province of Ontario. To use the title “Kinesiologist”, a person must be registered with the College of Kinesiologists of Ontario (CKO). The primary requirement to become registered with CKO is to write and pass the entry-to-practice exam. To write the exam an applicant must have the appropriate educational background. An applicant with an honours degree from a School of Kinesiology in Ontario is automatically approved to take the exam. Applicants with other education backgrounds can apply but given the breadth and depth of knowledge required it is difficult to demonstrate they have courses covering all required knowledge areas in less than 4 years of study. In addition, the KHS program at York University is accredited by the Canadian Council of University Physical Education and Kinesiology Administrators (CCUPEKA) which requires a 4-year program for accreditation.

There is a need for a 90-credit degree option for students who do not wish to practice as a Registered Kinesiologist, particularly those who wish to support human health through movement, using their degree to work in a range of fields including physical activity specialist, fitness, injury prevention, paramedicine. In an era where sitting has become the new smoking in terms of health outcomes and obesity is an ongoing epidemic, the Faculty of Health (FoH) would benefit from a program option that provides the focus on movement and health. The School of Kinesiology and Health Science’s most recent cyclical program review strongly supported a 90-credit degree option. The acting Dean in their response noted ‘The issue has reached a tipping point’.

A 90-credit degree option focused on the relationship between movement and health will reduce the breadth of courses needed for students currently in KHS to graduate. It will support



students who need a 90-credit exit option by necessity (unable to maintain honours standing) or choice (have a career opportunity such as acceptance to medicine or need to graduate due to financial pressures and want to graduate earlier).

Since the creation of the Faculty of Health, KHS students unable to maintain honours standing have been automatically exited from their program and transferred into another degree program for which they were eligible in the Department of Psychology. Effective May 2024, however, these students will instead be exited from the University because this automatic program transfer has been discontinued as of Sept. 1, 2023. Even when the Psychology transfer was available as an exit option for KHS students, many did not find a fit within the Psychology program. While not a degree in KHS, the proposed degrees in Movement and Health will prevent the automatic exiting of students from the University as of May 2024, and retain students by providing an exit degree with learning outcomes related to their interests.

Therefore, the proposed 90-credit degree options provide fairness to students and an opportunity to continue in their chosen School.

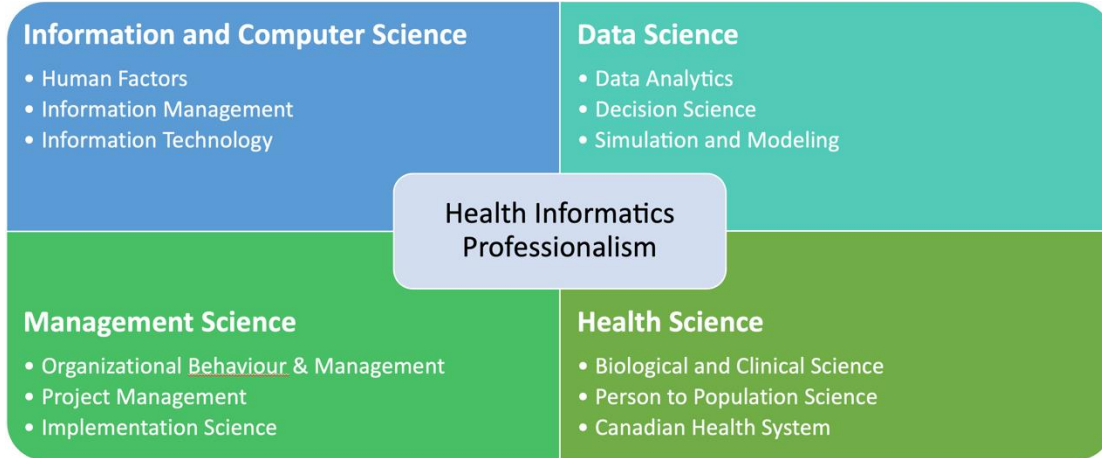
## 2. School of Health Policy and Management

Changes to the Major Requirements in the Specialized Honours Bachelor of Health Studies Degree Programs • School of Health Policy and Management • Faculty of Health

The Curriculum Committee recommends that Council approves changes to the major requirement of HLST 3350 3.00 and HLST 3341 3.00 in the Specialized Honours Bachelor of Health Studies degree programs housed in School Health Policy and Management, set out as Appendix B, effective FW 2024-25:

### Rationale:

HH/HLST 3350 3.00: Machine learning became 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.

**Graduate Committee Report  
Faculty of Health Council  
December 6, 2023**

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION (2):**

**The Graduate Committee would like to provide the following items for information to Faculty Council. The Graduate Committee has reviewed the following requests and approved the following items. The rationale has been included below and the full reports have been mounted to the Faculty Council website.**

**1. School of Global Health**

**Request to change grading for GH6000 and GH6100 to Pass/Fail**

The Graduate Committee approved the change to Pass/Fail grading as the PhD program has a relatively lower reliance on course work and greater reliance on individualized learning and skills mastery that is developed through explicit focus on an Independent Learning Plan (ILP) which is due in Year 1.

**Rationale:**

Students are likely to come to global health from many diverse disciplines and Master's/professional degrees. They are likely to populate their ILPs with elective courses in other faculties/units that use letter grading. For the time spent within our core courses, we wish to support greater focus on student learning, cohesion, and interdisciplinary student-community building versus competition.

The intent of the PhD program is to support students to take chances in forming arguments and testing epistemic stances within assignments, which may then be debated and dialogued through feedback and class discussion, to be able to develop critical thinking in the domain of global health. This type of dialogue will be best produced in the context of a Pass/Fail course where students' arguments are not shaped by their interest or focus on achieving a specific letter grade.

## **2. School of Kinesiology and Health Sciences**

### **New Course Proposal • School of Kinesiology and Health Sciences - Faculty of Health**

The Graduate Committee approved the following course proposal “Data science for health research with applications in R”, available for all students and will be integrated between KINE and KAHS.

#### **Rationale:**

Demand for professionals who can navigate and derive insights from health data is growing. This course offers foundational knowledge of data science methods tailored to health data within interdisciplinary research domains. Additionally, it presents students with the opportunity to engage hands-on with diverse health data types, from health administrative records to electronic health records. Further, participants will deepen their expertise in specific predictive modelling and causal inference techniques. Currently, there's a gap in courses that intricately marry data science with health research contexts at York University.