

Minutes of a Special Meeting of Senate
Thursday, April 4, 2024
5:00 – 6:30 pm
Alumni Hall and via Zoom

Present: G. Keefe (Chair), K. Mears (Vice-Chair), A. Trowbridge (Secretary to Senate), C. Adeyanju, M. Arfken, P. Bernard, O. Brown, M. Buote, A. Campbell, A. Carrothers, P. Drake, N. Etkin, S. Fitzpatrick, R. Gauthier, S. Hamilton, A. Hsiao, G. Jiang, T. Judson, B. Linkletter, A. MacKenzie, N. Mannholland, M. McMahon, D. Moses, S. Myers, G. Naterer, W. Peters, E. Reid, C. Ryan, T. Saunders, P. Smith, B. Stoughton, M. Sweeney-Nixon, W. Waterman

Regrets: P. Augustine, A. Braithwaite, L. Brinklow, D. Coll, S. Connolly, E. Côté, D. Griffon, A. MacLaren, C. Mady, T. Mady, W. Montelpare, R. Raiswell, S. Reijers, J. Sentance, M. Turnbull, M. von Eccher

Recorder: K. Porter

G. Keefe called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm, gave a land acknowledgement and thanked everyone for attending the special meeting of Senate.

G. Keefe welcomed the invited guests Mr. Paul Young, Dr. Aleisha Murnaghan, Dr. Trevor Jain, and Dr. Peter MacPherson, as well as the newest Senator, Dr. Preston Smith (Dean of Medicine) and reminded everyone that as with all Senate meetings, that discussion is only for Senators, unless invited to speak. Additional presentations on the Faculty of Medicine will be given on campus in the future.

Faculty of Medicine Discussion

G. Keefe gave a presentation “Development of the Faculty of Medicine” to Senators that provided the timeline of events since the early stages of the medical school:

- The initial assessment for a medical school began in 2019.
- In 2020, Dr. Tom Marrie was engaged to serve as an advisor on the development of a medical program. Options were explored and it was determined that a partnership with Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN) was the most appropriate based on MUN’s strong track record focused on rural and Indigenous education and experiences and UPEI’s track record focused on collaborative and interdisciplinary health and health-related programming.
- In September 2021, UPEI Senate voted to support the development of a Faculty of Medicine.
- In October 2021, a public announcement was made with a proposed start date for the Faculty in September 2023.
- In January 2022, a one-year delay was announced, and a steering committee was established, co-led by UPEI and MUN, with representatives from Health PEI and the medical community.

- In Spring of 2022, a Strategic Health System Integration Committee was formed and commissioned the Spindle Report.
- From January to September 2022, the former Dean at MUN's Faculty of Medicine worked with the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS) on a joint degree for both universities.
- In late 2022/early 2023 it was announced that due to CACMS feedback, the first cohort of students would be under MUN's accreditation. UPEI would act as a regional campus for MUN until the joint degree is approved by CACMS. MPHEC approval is not required with this approach but will be required when it is a UPEI credential. Also, construction challenges would delay the medical school until 2025.

G. Keefe reported that Senate will play an important role as the program moves from a regional campus to a joint program with MUN. As a regional campus, academic and accreditation responsibilities lie with MUN. Once it is a joint degree program, curriculum will be the responsibility of the UPEI Senate.

Recently the Board approved the hiring of the first faculty member. Dr. Joseph Gordon is a joint hire with Biomedical Sciences and will teach anatomy in the Faculty of Medicine, with his research home at AVC. The first academic hire was librarian Ms. Kim Mears. There will be joint hires as the new building does not have research lab facilities.

The budget has been approved, with the Faculty of Medicine having its own distinct schedule, similar to the AVC budget.

P. Smith gave a presentation "Doctor of Medicine: Regional Campus & Future Joint Degree Program" to Senators. Highlights of the presentation include:

- Over the last 30+ years, the number of medical schools in Canada have increased significantly and PEI will be the only province to not have a medical school.
- A Health System Capacity Assessment & Analysis report prepared by Spindle Strategy, known as the Spindle report, indicates that 92 currently practicing physicians will need to be engaged by UPEI in medical education and 43 new physicians will need to be hired into the health system and engaged by UPEI by year nine of the medical school's operations.
- This assumes that the average engagement of a physician is for 20% of their time. The reality is that some will have a high proportional engagement (up to 80%) whereas the majority have much lower engagements of typically 5% or less.
- Strategies are being created to engage current practicing physicians in teaching and to increase historic recruitment rates and to achieve hiring targets.
- Collaboration with health services across Atlantic Canada will be important to enhance the medical education experience.
- Studies have shown that new doctors want academic opportunities to engage with learners. MDs practice where they train and often, they stay where they can teach.
- Practice models and physician engagement are changing across the country and PEI can be a leader in the patient medical home model of care.
- Joint accreditation is new for CACMS and is an exciting opportunity.

- The four new medical schools are calling for innovation with a focus on primary care, generalism, EDI, Indigenous health, patient-centred care and team-based care.
- One of the most important accreditation standards is social accountability as a medical school is committed to addressing the priority health concerns of the population it has the responsibility to serve.

Questions:

B. Linkletter asked about the specific role between UPEI faculty and MUN with a regional campus regarding applying for tenure and promotion - which university would run the process. G. Keefe stated that faculty members hired by UPEI will follow the UPEI for tenure and promotion process.

T. Saunders raised concern that there is already strain with some courses prior to the medical school opening and asked if resources would be added. G. Keefe stated the budget has increased and we are playing catch up in some areas. Once the medical school opens, there is an opportunity for further development of streams while being aware of the resource implications.

P. MacPherson offered his comments that many of the physicians on the Island are here because they have an Island connection and there are many physicians that are currently teaching.

P. Bernard asked initially how many PhD faculty? G. Keefe replied that the budget numbers are not firm yet but it would be double digits in joint faculties.

G. Jiang asked how confident we are in hiring the number of new physicians that are needed. A. Murnaghan replied that she currently has forty-eight physicians that have expressed interest in teaching on the Island. G. Keefe stated that we are working with the Department of Health and Wellness and Health PEI to ensure recruitment efforts are beneficial to the health system.

G. Naterer followed up with T. Saunders regarding collaboration between the medical school and the rest of campus. There was an interprofessional health education working group that was led by Dr. Cathy Vardy prior to her retirement. Dr. Christina Murray is now leading the group. The mandate of the group is to foster collaboration among the health programs across campus including the Faculty of Medicine.

A. Campbell asked if there would be an opportunity for interdisciplinary appointments in medical programs including the Faculty of Medicine across campus. G. Keefe it is expected that there will be interdisciplinary collaboration particularly in the medical program. The simulation centre should also help collaboration as different disciplines will utilize this facility. P. Smith also reiterated the opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration and that preclinical course there should be a lot of opportunities for non-medical and non-biomedical faculty members to teach.

K. Mears asked why the change to the Faculty of Medicine program and approach regarding the satellite/regional campus wasn't brought back to the Senate for approval. G. Keefe replied that it was confirmed that there was no requirement for MPHEC approval of the regional campus. The program operates under the approvals that Memorial already holds. The change was brought to the attention of Senators for information at a Senate meeting in October 2022.

M. Arfken asked what the biggest hurdles are for both the accreditation processes. P. Smith replied that development of a joint curriculum is a hurdle as CACMS has never done this before. CACMS

asks about resources and the details in place, and if there are doubts they would contact MUN to have accreditation visits. CACMS uses a different process for regional campus expansions compared to the accreditation process that will be required for the joint program.

M. Arfken asked what questions CACMS has returned with following the review of the regional campus submission. A. Murnaghan responded that there were number of clarifications items, including space availability for clinical skills on and off campus, and comparability of the St. John's and Charlottetown learning experiences, including that related to learner well-being and success. CACMS received the responses and asked an additional question around plans if the building isn't ready. The team is working on putting contingency plans in place if the building isn't ready.

B. Stoughton asked what the plan is if the joint accreditation doesn't go forward, would we remain a regional campus. G. Keefe stated CACMS is not opposed to a joint accreditation they just have never accredited this type of system before. MUN is already a fully accredited program including their curriculum, so UPEI will use MUN's already approved curriculum.

A. Campbell asked if the degree will be a MUN degree while we are a regional campus and when it's a joint campus, who will be issuing the degree. G. Keefe replied that it is a MUN degree while we are a regional campus however, MUN has agreements with other campuses that MUN will recognize other institutions on the parchment.

N. Etkin asked if it is anticipated that we will transfer to joint accreditation prior to the first students graduating. G. Keefe replied that we hope to transfer to the joint accreditation before the first students graduate however the students that start under the MUN regional campus will finish with a MUN degree.

T. Saunders asked if there would be community facing health programs that could be run by allied health professionals in an interprofessional setting. P. Smith responded that this is the concept of the patient medical home.

M. Buote asked what was UPEI's response to the MSPEI's request to pause on the Faculty of Medicine. G. Keefe responded that MSPEI's request was not made to UPEI, but to the Province. As such, it was not our place to make a direct response. P. Smith indicated that since that time he has participated in an informative and engaged physician town hall and it is part of his role to engage with physicians and to hear their concerns while educating them on how other campuses have accomplished this.

B. Linkletter raised concern about the amount of space that is available for research purposes. G. Keefe responded that UPEI is aware of the need for more research space. P. Smith also acknowledged that research space is important and this needs to be looked at.

MOTION: (P. Bernard/A. Carrothers) that the meeting be adjourned at 6:31 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea Trowbridge
Secretary of Senate