

The University of British Columbia
School of Population and Public Health

Minutes of Faculty Meeting held on Friday, May 23, 2025
at 10:15 am to 12:00 pm in Room B104/Zoom

Present: Please see the attached attendance list of those who attended the meeting in person or via Zoom and signed/checked out their names.

1. **Welcome and Land Acknowledgement** – Aslam Anis, Director
Dr. Aslam Anis welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged that it was taking place on the Musqueam people's traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory.
2. **Approval of Agenda**– approved.
3. **Approval of Minutes of January** – approved.
4. **Director's Report**- Aslam Anis, Director
 - A new faculty member, Dr. Kaylee Byers, has accepted the position of Assistant Professor in Global Environmental Health.
 - Dr. Kim McGrail will be resigning from UBC and the School of Population and Public Health, effective June 30. She will be moving to a new role at SFU. This follows the earlier announcement of Dr. Mike Law's departure, also effective at the end of June.
 - Gabrielle Price, Director of Communications, is leaving for a new position. Her role will not be directly replaced.
 - The school has hired Sabrina Mohammed as the new Communications Specialist. Sabrina will manage communications and receive some support from the Faculty of Medicine's central communications team.
 - UBC has launched a voluntary retirement program. Faculty whose age and years of service score exceeds 90 will have received a direct invitation to participate. The deadline to opt in is July 18.
 - Spring Convocation was a success, with many students graduating and a celebratory reception held afterward. Dr. Kelleher received a standing ovation, as this marked his final convocation as Dean.
 - A theft incident was reported in the Prison Health Office, with three computers stolen. An attempted theft occurred on the main floor around the same time.
 - Dr. McGrail's resignation led to a detailed discussion about the future of PopData. It is a provincially funded platform governed by an agreement between the provincial government and UBC's Faculty of Medicine. It will continue to operate, regardless of leadership changes. People directly linked and interested can organize a meeting inviting Dr. Kim McGrail along with Dr. Jason Sutherland and Dr. Rachel Murphy for further discussion.

- A website with guidance and protocols for ongoing collegial discussions and sharing public statements from faculty has been shared with everyone and should be reviewed.
- A UBC statement on traveling with electronics—especially when carrying confidential or sensitive data—is important to review.
- The school is preparing for an external review with a self-study report underway. Two committee members have agreed to participate, but are still seeking a third international member.
- There's an upcoming external review of the Center for Advancing Health Outcomes next week, and participation is encouraged.

5. Associate Directors Updates – report attached

a) Faculty Affairs and Partnerships– Louise Masse,
Supervision & Faculty Appointment Alignment follow up meeting scheduled in June;
Current goal is to work within the existing framework to bring clarity and consistency to role assignments.

b) Research – Rachel Murphy
Some outputs from recent town hall and retreat discussions, a trainee research showcase is being planned for September, the aim is to provide a platform for students to present existing posters and engage across programs. Interested faculty/staff are encouraged to support the planning.

The Research Seminar Series, Dr. Steel presented on May 23rd and Dr. Karim will present on June 27th

c) Education – Lisa for Trevor Dummer
Upcoming Faculty Forum – June 19, topics include:

1. Teaching with generative AI
2. Mentoring racialized graduate students
3. Connecting Competency and assessments in your Syllabi. - Important for those teaching MPH students due to accreditation needs.

d) Clinical Faculty Affairs – Trevor Corneil - no updates

6. Advisor on Community Engagement and REDI Lead – no updates

7. Program Directors Reports, Centre Directors and Division Heads

a) Nick Bansback, MHA – Report attached.

- Adjunct faculty continue to make significant contributions to the MHA program
- Budget cuts in the healthcare system are having a direct effect on MHA student enrollment

b) Eva Oberle, MSc/PhD— Report attached.

Faculty are reminded that student progress reports are due mid-June. It's a key opportunity to engage with students and reflect those discussions in the reports. Emily, Tony, and Eva will review and follow up where needed.

c) Chris McLeod, OEH

Appreciated adjunct faculty and their valuable contributions. Despite broader concerns about the economy and job market, the majority of recent graduates have maintained employment within BC's healthcare sector.

d) Daniel Steel, MGH

One staff member, Lena, will be out temporarily due to surgery but will work both virtually and in-person after recovery.

e) Patti Janssen, Accreditation

Canada remains exempt from new international academic compliance regulations, streamlining processes. This is due to strong, long-standing partnerships with Canadian institutions.

f) Mariana Brussoni, HELP

Scheduled internal review delayed because FoM is now moving to a 7-year review.

g) Nadine Caron, CEIH - (Gina)

Nadine Caron to be honored at the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame next month

h) Jason Sutherland, Health Services & Policy

Jason and Aslam attended a meeting at the University of Toronto about a new core competency framework published by the Canadian Institute for Health Research for Health Services PhD training. This framework highlighted key domains such as leadership, grant writing, mentorship, and data science.

8. Administration – Shermila

- Reminder: UBC employees should not work remotely outside BC unless required by the job (due to legal/insurance reasons).
- Hybrid work arrangement policy: Staff expected to be on campus at least one day per week.
- New communication specialist Sabrina Muhammad started recently with strong strategic communications background.
- Gabriel's last day next Friday; Sabrina to take over communications and marketing.

9. Communication – Stefan

- MGH program - the official student marketing will Launch next month.
- Ongoing REDI survey that Sue Mills distributed; faculty encouraged to participate. The information will be confidential and people working at the back end will only have access to confidential information.

10. Education – Lisa – No updates

11. IT – Stefan – No updates

12. Other Business Arising

13. Announcements/Celebrations

- Dr. Monica Naus was awarded 2024 George Elliot Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Dr. Patricia Janssen – UBC Research Cluster Excellence funding was renewed. Dr. Janssen’s research team has launched Smart Parent in Ontario now.
- Dr. Aslam Anis will be away in July and is available for meetings in June.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM

Next Meeting: Friday, June 27th, 2025.