

The University of British Columbia  
**School of Population and Public Health**

Minutes of Faculty Meeting held on Friday, June 27, 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 traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam people.
2. **Approval of Agenda**– approved.
3. **Approval of Minutes of May** – approved.
4. **Director's Report**- Aslam Anis, Director
  - Dr. Martin Schechter opted to take the Volunteer Retirement Program (VRP) and will be retiring at the end of this month. Aslam expressed his gratitude to Marty for his service to the School and for his generosity in leading and being an integral part of the institution. A more formal thank-you will be given to Marty at a later date.
  - Geraldine Ong will be taking a gradual retirement effective July 1, 2025. Geraldine will transition out of her position and train her replacement, Michael McGuire. Aslam thanked Geraldine for her invaluable service to the School. A farewell lunch will be held in her honour after this meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend.
  - The department is slowly recovering from structural financial deficits. In the next 3–4 years, it is expected that the school will be in a stronger position to hire strategically and focus on long-term goals rather than short-term fixes.
  - A new Dean has been hired after a thorough recruitment process; she has a strong background in global health and currently oversees global programs at Baylor College of Medicine.
  - A general appeal to all faculty to get more involved with the School work as there are many responsibilities—committees, promotions, awards, reviews—and a small group is currently doing most of the work. Volunteers are needed for program support, divisional leadership, and the upcoming school review.
  - The external review for the School will be in fall. A self-study report must be written, and volunteers to help with that are welcome. If anyone knows a consultant who could assist, that option is also being explored.
  - Room 133 has been upgraded with full Zoom-capable equipment (computer, camera, microphone, speaker, power setup). It is reserved for important meetings due to

technical needs. Thanks to Gurm Dhurga, Associate Director, Research and Core Technology, Digital Solutions, MED IT.

- A second framework, emerging from the Deans and Directors of Public Health and Health Services Research is focused on Health Services & Policy PhD programs.
  - This initiative, funded by CIHR, is called Curriculum Modernization.
  - Applies only to Health Services & Policy PhD, but SPPH is reviewing how to apply similar standards to all programs.
  - Faculty are invited to provide feedback if their area is underrepresented in current frameworks.

**5. Associate Directors Updates – report attached**

**a) Faculty Affairs and Partnerships– Louise Masse- report attached**

- A revised draft of the Graduate Supervision Guidelines has been developed by a working group. This draft is not to be distributed outside the School at this time. A discussion was held among the members of the faculty. Louise asked faculty to review the draft and send feedback in two weeks. Further discussion and feedback will be held at the August Full Faculty meeting with the intention of implementing the policy for the next intake of admissions.
- **Motion to approve SPPH Adjunct Faculty Guidelines** that was circulated with the Full Faculty meeting package: motioned by Louise Masse and seconded Amanda Slaunwhite and approved with 5 abstentions.

**b) Research – Rachel Murphy- no updates**

**c) Education –Trevor Dummer – Report attached.**

- Thanked everyone who attended Teaching and Learning Forum & BBQ. There was positive feedback for the seminar and the social. It provided a strong foundation for building a shared teaching culture. Special thanks to admin and education staff for supporting the event logistics.
- Additional teaching and learning events will be held in the fall. Further details to follow about the following:
  - i. Assignments in context of AI – to help instructors develop innovative assignments
  - ii. EDI in course syllabi and assessment strategies  
Those interested in AI and assessment can also register for the following upcoming CTLT event: Rethinking Assessment in the Age of Generative AI  
Online July 23 10:00-11:30am
- Teaching Assignments & TA Allocations:  
Faculty teaching assignments have been shared. TA allocations are based on last year's actual enrolment, not this year's current projections. The TA allocation guidelines have not changed.

**d) Clinical Faculty Affairs – Trevor Corneil – Report attached.**

6. **Advisor on Community Engagement and REDI Lead** – Sue Mills - Report attached.
7. **Program Directors Reports, Centre Directors and Division Heads**
  - a) **Nick Bansback, MHA** – Report attached.
  - b) **Trevor Corneil, PHPM** – Report attached.
  - c) **Mike Marin, MPH** – Report attached.
  - d) **Daniel Steel, MGH** – Report attached.
  - e) **Patti Janssen, Accreditation**

Emails have been sent to instructors of required MPH courses.  
Faculty are asked to confirm how specific competencies are being taught and assessed.
  - f) **Amea Manges, Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Public Health Practice** – Report attached.

A new concentration in Epidemiology for the MSc program has been outlined to parallel the existing PhD stream.
8. **Administration** – Shermila  
Sabrina Mohammed the new Communications Specialist will be joining the Full Faculty meetings starting August.
9. **Communications** – No updates
10. **Education** – Lisa – No updates
11. **IT** – Stefan – No updates
12. **Other Business Arising**
13. **Announcements/Celebrations**
  - i. Dr. Dean Regier has been appointed Associate Professor in Translational Medicine (starting July 1).
  - ii. Dr. Veena Sriram has been reappointed as Assistant Professor (jointly with the School of Policy and Global Affairs).
  - iii. Dr. Trevor Dummer has been reappointed as Canadian Cancer Society Chair in Primary Prevention of Cancer Research for 5 years.
  - iv. Dr. Ehsan Karim has been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure effective July 1, 2025.
  - v. Dr. Kristen Marchand has been appointed in SPPH as an Assistant Professor (Partner) effective July 1, 2025.
  - vi. Dr. Daniel Vigo received a Distinguished Achievement Award from the Faculty of Medicine.

- vii. Dr. Patti Janssen's SMART program developed at the University has now been adopted by Newfoundland (in addition to Nova Scotia) and is being implemented across the three major health regions in Ontario.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

**Next Meeting: Friday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025.**