

Dean's report to Health Faculty Council
November 7, 2018

The Faculty Executive Committee recently held a discussion on various ways to improve engagement and decision making at Faculty Council. We are concerned that meetings have focused on information sharing with a handful of pro forma decisions. To increase as much time as possible for discussion and decision making, I've decided to try replacing or reducing my usual Dean's remarks with a written report. I will still welcome questions from the floor related to my report or other Council relevant items of concern.

Welcome to Senior University Leaders

On behalf of all members of our Faculty, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to President Lenton, Provost and Vice President Phillips and Vice President McAulay who will be visiting Council on November 7 to provide an overview of the University budget, and invite your responses to the question: How can we best allocate resources to support and deliver the University Academic Plan. This is a wonderful opportunity to provide your advice and help shape upcoming budget allocations. I urge everyone to attend.

The Faculty of Health continues to perform exceptionally well. Here are a few examples of our progress over the last few months.

Research grant submissions.

I'd like to congratulate the many people who submitted one or more research grant applications over the last few months. For example, between August 1 and November 1, 2018 our faculty members submitted 47 grant applications to 19 different funding competitions. I'd like to thank the entire research office, and particularly Melesa Beharry for their excellent work on the application files this past year. Thirty-nine (83%) of the applications were submitted to one of the tri-council agencies. While we welcome grants from a wide assortment of funders, tri-council grants are particularly helpful because the University receives an annual grant to cover indirect research costs based on the total amount of funding received from SSHRC, CIHR, and NSERC. This money is passed on to Faculties. The money we receive for indirect costs is used to fund our Faculty Research Office. The total annual tri-council funding is also used to determine the allocations of CRCs and other awards.

Towards and Academic Health Science Network.

The University and Faculty Strategic plans includes goals to improve research intensification and community engagement. Moreover, several healthcare providers in the GTA, including regional hospitals, long term care partners, and community health agencies, have expressed an interest in an affiliation with York. In the past, most of our affiliations have been driven by individual researchers or small research teams. As a result, we have dozens of relatively small-scale affiliation agreements. In some cases, we have multiple agreements with a single agency – none of which are linked to one another. Over the past few months, a handful of large organizations have expressed an interest in becoming an academic health science centre – an organization affiliated with a university partner for undertaking research which improves the delivery of health care. Most often the academic health science centre are driven by a partnership between a hospital and a medical school. Although rare, there are also other examples of Health

Science Faculties partnering with long term care and/or public health providers. To this end, I will be working with the Faculty Executive and Leadership teams to develop a plan for the creation of a new Academic Health Sciences Network led by York University. I envision working with a select number of health care providers (acute, primary, home, long term care) as well as public and community health around specific issues of mutual interest and expertise. While researchers may still need to have affiliations with non-network members, the Focus of the Faculty of Health will be on developing more intensive and mutually beneficial relationships with a smaller, more manageable group of external partners. I am proposing that we start by building on some of our existing relationships. To this end, I am pleased to report that several researchers from the Faculty of Health and the Faculty of Science recently hosted a team from the Southlake Hospital Cardiac research unit. Our Southlake colleagues shared an overview of the testing they are doing and data they are collecting. Our researchers shared their areas of research, what they can bring to a collaboration, and what they are looking for in a partnership. We found at least three areas for immediate or short-term collaboration. We will follow up and set out a plan for moving forward, including amending our existing MOU to allow more flexibility and movement between institutions. We have also been working with Southlake Hospital to implement a protocol which automatically asks all people admitted to the hospital whether they are willing to provide permission to be contacted for involvement in research. Once implemented, it will help York researchers find and contact perspective study participants.

Collaborative and/or Community-based Seed Grant

The Research and Awards Committee recently adjudicated the first Collaborative and/or Community-based Seed Grant competition. We received 8 applications including at least one file from each academic unit in Health. An award was made to Professor Shayna Rosenbaum for her collaborative project. Congratulations Shayna. Recommendations were also made around improvements to the next call which we will implement immediately. We are using the information collected within applications to ensure researchers who were not funded in this round are connected to other possible funding opportunities right away.

CFI Innovation Fund Call

In anticipation of the next CFI Innovation Fund call, VPRI has asked Faculties to submit proposals for large-scale infrastructure funding. The Associate Dean and Research Office have been reaching out to our researchers, as well as other Faculties where appropriate. They will be meeting with all people interested in developing an application to ensure we submit as many high caliber proposals as possible.

Mid Year Budget Review

We have received a preliminary estimate on how much revenue our Faculty lost because of the recent labour disruption. Overall, we estimate that lost tuition and grant revenue, mostly from cancellation of summer courses and students who left the university, will reduce our revenue by \$1.7 million. Student drop outs will continue to influence our enrolments and revenue for up to four more years. In addition, our students will receive approximately \$2.95 million dollars in tuition credits. While we may save a few thousand dollars on items such as reduced interfaculty teaching costs, we expect this year's budget will take a total hit of between four and five million dollars.

Quite appropriately, students who were unable to complete courses last winter and summer are using their credits to enroll in courses this fall and winter. The net effect is that there are a

larger than expected number of students in many fall 2018 and winter 2019 courses. I want to thank all our instructors and staff who are working very hard to meet the needs of our students under challenging circumstances. I also want to thank our students for their ongoing patience and flexibility.

Proposals for Additional Office and Research Space

At last month's Faculty Council meeting I introduced a multi-year, multi-part plan to meet our space needs over the next decade or more. A significant part of the plan is to build a new extension to the Sherman Health Sciences Centre. Two floors are to accommodate some special purpose research that will re-locate from another building on campus. I have been working with the Chair of Psychology and the Director of Kinesiology and Health Science to draft a proposal for adding two more floors to the Sherman facility. Our aim is to submit the proposal by December, and if endorsed by the Vice Presidents, would then be sent to the President, University Budget Advisory Committee. If they support our proposal it would go to sub-committees of the Board of Governors and then on to the Board itself. At this stage, the two extra floors (over and above the special purpose facility), would host several multi-disciplinary research teams, including offices, graduate students, research staff, and some specialized clinics to aid in student training, data collection, and community engagement. I'd like to thank Joel Goldberg and Angelo Belcastro for their wonderful ideas.

A major long-term opportunity discussed at Faculty Council was the possibility of creating a health-oriented campus in the City of Vaughan sometime within the next seven or eight years. This opportunity has met with mixed reactions. Particular concerns have been raised by the School of Nursing. To address their concerns and facilitate dialogue, I have invited the School to form a small work group that would meet with me. I have also offered to meet with the School Council. The Provost and VPRI have volunteered to meet with the School, and our Faculty Council, to engage in a discussion and answer questions. I want to emphasize that discussions about whether we should pursue a building in Vaughan, and what it might be used for are still in the very early stages. I raised the opportunity precisely to start a conversation and create opportunities for input.

Future Items

Over the next three months I will be asking Faculty Council Executive to consider some important documents. The items include a draft Faculty operational plan for 2018-19 as well as a report on governance options for our global health program. We also hope to bring forward a proposal to create a new undergraduate program in neuroscience, designed and delivered jointly with the Faculty of Science.