

Office of the Provost and Vice-President Academic




Memorandum

To: Faculty Council,
Faculty of Health

From: Lisa Philipps, Provost and Vice-President Academic

Date: November 1, 2019

Subject: Proposal for Establishment of a School of Global Health



I am pleased to write in support of the proposal from the Faculty of Health to establish a new School of Global Health, effective July 1, 2020, with existing programs to be transferred to the School at that time. The proposal is the result of an extensive consultative process within the Faculty and beyond, which included consideration of a range of structural options for Global Health going forward. The new School will be the first of its kind in Canada, presenting an exciting opportunity to profile one of the University's emerging areas of distinctive strength.

Undergraduate programs in the field of Global Health (BA and BSc Honours and Specialized Honours and an Honours Minor) have been offered in the Faculty of Health at York since 2014, under the administrative auspices of the Dean's Office. This initial structure enabled the Faculty to launch its Global Health programs efficiently. These programs have proven to be very successful to the point where the start-up administrative structure now presents challenges in relation to the profile of the programs, the locus of new faculty appointments with global health as a primary focus of their research and teaching, and representation of Global Health in Faculty governance.

The establishment of the School of Global Health recognizes the development of global health as a distinct field of study and research with clear intersections with a range of disciplines in the social sciences, law, sciences, etc., as well as the importance of approaching the search for solutions to the world's significant health-related issues from a multi-disciplinary and global perspective. The School will provide a clear focus for teaching and research in this field in the Faculty and will align with and complement the Dahdaleh Institute for Global Health Research, enabling Global

Health at York to pursue its full potential by providing opportunities for enhanced visibility and profile, the development of local and international partnerships and collaborations, the recruitment of outstanding students, and the expansion of experiential education (EE) opportunities, as well as a platform for new programming initiatives such as a PhD program now in development.

The establishment of the School will also advance York's institutional priorities, including the expansion of health-related programming, the development of innovative programming which contributes to addressing real world issues, the intensification of impactful research, the promotion of internationalization, and the incorporation of internships and other forms of EE into the curriculum.

The proposal and the supporting letter from Dean McDonald confirm that the proposed School is both financially and structurally viable and sustainable. Five new faculty members with primary research and teaching interests in global health have recently been appointed in the Faculty and, together with two distinguished senior colleagues, they will provide a cadre of outstanding faculty to initiate the new School – and other faculty members have indicated an interest in cross-appointments. There are no plans for changes to the existing undergraduate programs at this time, pending results of a program review scheduled for 2021; relevant courses from other units and Faculties will continue to be available to students in the programs. Enrolments in the programs have grown since their introduction; and projections for enrolment increases – domestic and international, undergraduate and eventually graduate – seem realistic and entirely achievable and are anticipated to be sufficient to support the complement, administrative, infrastructure, and other costs of the School as proposed. Administrative and central Faculty supports will continue as currently provided. It will be important to put plans in place to ensure that the financial and academic needs of students – particularly international students – will be addressed in support of access.

In short, the proposal puts forth a compelling academic rationale, business case, and resourcing plan in support of the establishment of a School of Global Health in the Faculty of Health; and I am therefore happy to signal my strong support for it.

Cc: Vice-Provost Academic A. Pitt
Dean P. McDonald