

Biomedical Science Working Group
Friday May 9, 2025
Approved Minutes

In Attendance: Ritu, Elena, Kelly, Sue-Ann, Joanne L, Meghan, Richard, Denis, Desmond, Andrew, Joanne S-G, Deniz, Tom, Debbie

Virtual: Hanne, Alan

Regrets: Todd, Janis

1. Welcome

- Dr. Stelfox opened the meeting with a land acknowledgement and welcomed the Dean along with all members of the working group.

2. Review agenda & minutes

- Agenda for today's meeting was approved
- Minutes of the meeting of April 4, 2025 were approved as presented and were approved for posting on the website.

3. Guest visitor - Dean Hemmelgarn (inform)

- Dean Hemmelgarn thanked the working group for the work being done. She stressed that the status quo is not sustainable. The focus must be on what are the opportunities related to maintaining strong research, focusing on education and the needs of our students as well as looking at potential ways to create sources of income to support what we are doing in biomedical research. How can we leverage what infrastructure we currently have in place to benefit everyone? She asked the group to continue to think broadly. Any proposed changes will be phased but what might quick easy, measurable wins might we find. Then also focus on long term goals for sustainability and excellence. She again thanked the group for their hard work and encouraged the messaging taken to the street be positive and encourage input from the community.

- Follow-up on action items from previous meeting Review of how we work together

- The group was reminded of how we will continue to work together. ECRs will continue to be called upon to speak first so their voices are heard. We will continue to debate the issues and ideas with candor and kindness.
- We will try to provide any data that is to be presented with enough time for the working group to review and digest material prior to meetings so there is time to really evaluate what is being presented with thoughtful consideration which should allow more time for collective learning.

Subgroup updates

- **Environmental Scan subgroup** (Fortin, Lemieux, Ostergaard, Simala-Grant, Steenbergen) – the group reported that slides are being updated and will be shared with the working group.
- **Community Engagement subgroup** (Alexander, Amoah, Galloway, Lehner, Underhill) – DA reviewed the key elements that have been and are being launched including the upcoming Focus groups. All were encouraged to remind the community to complete the survey that was launched.
- **Retreat Planning subgroup** (Mok, Riddell, Simmonds) – Wendy Wilton has agreed to facilitate the leadership retreat.
- **Literature subgroup** ((Lee, Mann-Nüttel, Posse de Chaves) – the draft will be ready by next week. The subgroup is currently summarizing the data reviewed.
- Refinement to definition of Biomedical Sciences institution success – the presented minor change to the definition was approved by the working group.

4. Determine areas of focus to include in report (collaborate)

- Establish process for determining content of self-study report – there was discussion and agreement regarding what the report from this working group will look like when presented to the Dean. We will continue to further refine what the report contents will focus on.
- Review & refine working group proposed areas of focus – there was discussion on what we focus on moving forward: key opportunities, propose options for those opportunities and outline the anticipated nature consequences of the options.

5. Next steps

- The group will be provided access to the google form to provide input on Options for Action in preparation for discussion at our next scheduled meeting.

Schedule of meetings / commitments:

Next Meeting: **May 23, 2025 1:00 – 2:30 pm**