

Basic Science Working Group
Friday April 11, 2025
Approved Minutes

- Welcome
 - Dr. Stelfox opened the meeting with a land acknowledgement and welcomed those in attendance.
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- 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.
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- Follow-up on action items from previous meeting
 - **Environmental Scan subgroup** (Fortin, Lemieux, Ostergaard, Simala-Grant, Steenbergen) – the group reports that they have identified data and good information to compare. They will be presenting their findings to the working group April 25th.
 - **Community Engagement subgroup** (Alexander, Amoah, Galloway, Lehner, Underhill) – JG had a good meeting with one of the people named as a potential facilitator and has a meeting scheduled next week with the other identified individual. Once proposals are received she will share with Dr. Stelfox. A proposed survey draft is with the subgroup for feedback. Members of the working group were encouraged to remind their colleagues to participate in the April 16th Town Hall.
 - **Retreat Planning subgroup** (Mok, Riddell, Simmonds) – the subgroup met with the Faculty senior leadership retreat planning group. The retreat will likely be organized into three sections; first a presentation to the leadership team, second a panel conversation with early & mid-career researchers and third, focus groups with large group feedback to solicit input from members of the Faculty senior leadership team. The working group suggested that Meghan and Sue-Ann participate as panelists during the retreat.
 - **Updated Baseline Data** – JS-G indicated that a new slide deck with updated baseline data was added to the google drive for today's meeting. She asked that working group membership review and provide feedback on things that may need to be updated, added or deleted.

- **Town Hall #2 strategy**

- The working group agreed to frame Town Hall #2 as a “Call to Action” with three parts to the presentation; RL will present the baseline data, AU will provide a high level summary of the working group’s definition of biomedical sciences success and MR will provide an overview of the concrete actions being taken by the working group.

- **External review plan**

- All three external reviewers have now been confirmed. The external review will be held virtually Sept 15 & 16. The reviewers are: Dr. Ted Allison (University of Alberta), Dr. Lyn Postovit (Queens University). Dr. Marie Jose Hébert (Université de Montréal). Our goal will be to have the meetings with the reviewers tentatively scheduled prior to the summer.

- **Lessons from the literature (Lee, Mann-Nüttel, Posse de Chaves)**

- The subgroup presented a summary of the published literature on strategies for optimal environments for biomedical science (research, education and service). The group presented a number of publications for consideration and solicited input from the working group. The studies were organized into the following categories:
 - Challenges in Research Excellence
 - Optimal Research Environments
 - Research Evaluation Frameworks
 - Case Studies on Research and Research Administration Evaluation
 - Optimal Environments for Education
 - Best Structure for Biomedical Science
 - Strategies for Sustainable Research Funding
 - Public Engagement & Policy Advocacy

The subgroup will now refine their summary of the literature based on the working group discussion.

- **Next steps**

- Subgroups will continue their work.

Schedule of meetings / commitments:

Next Meeting: **April 25, 2025 1:00 – 2:30 pm**