

**Biomedical Sciences Review
Working Group
Friday September 19, 2025
Approved Minutes**

Attendance: Elena, Hanne, Alan, Susan, Joanne L., Denis, Meghan, Janis, Andrew, Denis Desmond, Joanne S-G, Todd, Tom, Debbie

Regrets: Kelly, Ritu, Richard, Rineke

Special Guest: Dean Hemmelgarn

1. Welcome

- Dr. Stelfox opened the meeting with a land acknowledgement. He welcomed the committee members to the 16th and final meeting and congratulated them on the work that they have done over the past nine months.

2. Confirm agenda & approve minutes

- The Agenda was approved as presented.
- Draft Minutes of the meeting of September 12th were approved as presented and were approved for uploading to the webpage.

3. Review Administrative and Operational Effectiveness Options for Action

- The committee discussed the best way to present the administration options for both clarity and action. It was agreed to present two paths representing the boundaries of multiple approaches considered and to include the potential benefits and risks of both. Draft #3 of the report will be circulated to the working group for review. Once group feedback is incorporated it will be formatted with the help of University communications partners and a final proof circulated to the working group for review prior to submission to the Dean.

4. Debrief external review

- Dr. Stelfox briefly shared the observations shared by the external reviewers in the debrief meeting with him upon completion of their meetings on September 16th. They indicated they were very impressed with the thoughtful and constructive comments from participants. They noted that the pressures faced by our biomedical science members reflect many of the same issues being experienced by institutions across the country. The reviewers indicated that they would submit their report directly to the Dean by mid-October. The reviewers indicated that they felt it would be important for their findings to be shared with the university community.

5. Debrief with Dean Hemmelgarn

- Dean Hemmelgarn joined the meeting at 2:00 pm. She expressed gratitude for the countless hours and thoughtful consideration the working group has dedicated to the review. She reaffirmed with the group the fundamental importance of biomedical sciences to the Faculty of Medicine, refuted rumours of the community moving to the Faculty of Science and indicated that fundamental research provides the basis for all that we do. She solicited contextual insights from each member of the working group for her to keep in mind as she considers next steps. She reminded members of the working group that the ultimate goal for biomedical sciences moving forward is not to just survive but to thrive.

6. Next steps

- The Dean indicated that a Town Hall to share initial observations from the reports will be held November 21st at noon in the Allard Theatre in the Katz building. The reports will be shared with the faculty.

Schedule of meetings / commitments:

- Working group meetings complete