

COUNCIL OF THE SCHOOL OF HEALTH**Minutes for the meeting held on April 2, 2026, 3:00pm****PRESENT**Voting members:

V. Pepin (Chair), A. Champagne, A. Piekny, R. Reilly (online), L. Kadem (online), S. Granger (online), L. Barker (online), M. D'Amico (online), S. Shih, A. W. Mudiyansele (online) K. Toledano (online)

Non-voting members:

K. Dunfield (online), S. De Celles (online), L. Roy (Secretary), P. Sullivan (Recording Secretary)

REGRETSVoting members:

G. Carr, E. Diamantoudi, J-P. Gouin, T. Evans, C. Plissonneau, C. Bruce

Non-voting members:

K. Hall

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:04pm.

2. Approval of the Agenda

SOHC 2026-2M-1

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved.

Carried, unanimously

3. Approval of the Minutes of February 26, 2026

SOHC 2026-2M-2

It was moved and seconded that the minutes be approved.

Carried, unanimously

4. Chair's Remarks

The Chair opened by thanking S. Shih for agreeing to present his CREATE grant at the meeting. She noted that there would be a voting item regarding the SRC research funding. She commented on the end of the fiscal year, noting that the School of Health had another record-breaking year in revenues generated with PERFORM and that its financial situation continues to

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improve. She indicated that the Provost is currently presenting the findings of unit visits.

She presented financial highlights for the School of Health, noting that when PERFORM was a standalone centre, it previously cost the University ~ \$3.5M annually, with peak revenues of approximately \$675K. This year, costs were reduced to \$2.6M, representing a 25% reduction versus the 'old PERFORM model' and a 31% below allocated budget. She noted that these improvements were the result of expense-reduction measures that are expected to continue into the next fiscal year. She also highlighted increased revenue generation, with direct external revenues expected to exceed \$1M this year, representing a 48% increase over the peak year under the "old PERFORM model". She emphasized that this reflects deliberate efforts and invited members to propose additional revenue-generating ideas.

In closing, she outlined key priorities for the end of the year, including the SOH Annual Conference on May 21, for which registration has opened, the call for research proposals to be discussed for approval later in the meeting, the call for student awards call which will close in three weeks and require Council approval, the graduate microprogram in Global Health Entrepreneurship, and planning for the upcoming year, including budget, strategic priorities, and leadership.

5. Presentation: NSERC CREATE Program: Biological Sciences, AI, and GENomics Training Program (BioSAGE)

S. Shih presented a CREATE grant proposal submitted earlier this year. It was not funded, therefore will be revised and resubmitted based on reviewer feedback. He explained that the program responds to the rapid growth of biological and genomic data and the gap between data generation and meaningful analysis, particularly due to limited AI expertise among biologists and engineers.

He outlined the objectives of the program, which are to train students in interdisciplinary fields spanning biology, genomics, and artificial intelligence, to provide structured coursework and industry experience, and to support research and industry-linked projects at the intersection of these domains. He presented the composition of the team, noting that it includes interdisciplinary researchers from Concordia and other institutions, as well as industry collaborators.

He described the program structure, including coursework, research projects, mobility opportunities, and industry engagement. He also presented the research themes, including the integration of automation and AI in genomics, genetic and systems biology, AI applications in precision medicine and population health, and environmental and ecosystem genomics. He concluded by outlining the anticipated impacts, including addressing workforce gaps, strengthening academia-industry collaboration, and improving trainees' ability to apply AI in biological research.

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A discussion followed. Questions and comments addressed alignment with broader university initiatives, comparison with existing programs such as AI4PH, data management considerations, potential for industry funding, opportunities to strengthen collaboration across institutions, and integration into existing graduate programming. The Chair thanked S. Shih for the presentation and noted the importance of these discussions in fostering collaboration and strategic development within the School.

6. For approval: SRC research funding recommendation (Document SOHC 2026-2M-A)

A. Piekny presented the recommendations of the School of Health Research Committee for the 2026 “Innovate, Expand, Accelerate” call for research proposals. She reported that 14 applications were received and evaluated across the SOH’s three research hubs. Based on the review process, four proposals were recommended for funding, including two in Biomedical Sciences and Engineering Research, one in Clinical Research and Prevention, and one in Community Health Research. Each selected project will receive \$50,000, for a total allocation of \$200,000, and the remaining \$25,000 will be returned to the School of Health budget.

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It was moved and seconded that the funding recommendation be approved.

Carried, unanimously

7. SOH Annual Conference May 21st 2026

A. Piekny provided an update on the upcoming School of Health conference. She presented key information regarding registration, abstract submission, and the overall program, and encouraged members to promote the event and to encourage colleagues and trainees to participate. She highlighted that the program includes a keynote presentation, poster sessions featuring trainees from multiple disciplines, breakout sessions organized by research hub, and a networking event with awards. She noted that increasing both registration and disciplinary diversity remains a priority.

She also outlined future initiatives, including potential collaborations on Indigenous health research, networking opportunities for members, and the possibility of co-hosting or supporting events with research centres and institutes.

The Chair noted that links in the agenda are clickable and indicated that Wendy Kunin will be recruiting judges for the poster sessions, encouraging council members to volunteer or recommend colleagues. A. Champagne noted that undergraduate researchers are welcome and emphasized the conference as an opportunity for connection and visibility. A. Piekny clarified that the conference welcomes a broad range of research topics and presentation formats.

SCHOOL OF HEALTH**Updates and Announcements**

The Chair thanked M. D'Amico for contributing an article to the community newsletter, noting that it aligned well with World Health Day and Autism Awareness Week. Members were invited to submit articles for future newsletters. No further announcements were raised.

8. Adjournment

SOHC 2026-2M-4 It was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 4:01pm.
Carried, unanimously

Next meeting: April 30, 2026, 3:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Sullivan
Recording Secretary
Council of the School of Health