



University  
of Victoria

Senate Committee on  
Planning

**MEMO**

**Date:** February 14, 2024  
**To:** Senate  
**From:** Senate Committee on Planning  
**Re:** **Proposal for delivery of the UBC Faculty of Medicine Distributed programs**

---

At its meeting on February 14, 2024, the Senate Committee on Planning considered the proposal to approve the delivery of the UBC Faculty of Medicine Master of Physical Therapy and Speech Language Pathology distributed programs at UVic.

In response to urgent health services needs in British Columbia and to further build capacity for health care and health education and research on Vancouver Island, the University of Victoria (UVic) and the University of British Columbia (UBC) are proposing a partnership to expand medical education offered by the UBC Faculty of Medicine into Vancouver Island and coastal communities.

Through this proposed partnership, UVic would offer UBC's Master of Physical Therapy and Master of Science Program in Speech-Language Pathology as fully distributed programs (MPT-VIC and SLP-VIC) at UVic. UVic and UBC have negotiated a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to offer the distributed programs starting August 2024. Senate was informed of UVic's intention to offer the distributed programs at the December 2023 Senate meeting. We are hereby seeking Senate approval to recommend to the Board of Governors that it also approve the proposed delivery of the MPT-VIC and SLP-VIC distributed programs.

**Recommended Motion:**

That Senate approve, and recommend to the Board of Governors that it also approve, the University of Victoria to sign a Memorandum of Agreement for delivery of the University of British Columbia Faculty of Medicine Master of Physical Therapy and Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology programs as distributed programs at UVic in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement as described in the Memo on Delivery of the UBC Faculty of Medicine Distributed Programs.

Respectfully submitted,

**2023-2024 Senate Committee on Planning**

Dr. Elizabeth Adjin-Tettey, Associate Vice-President Academic Programs  
Dr. Eva Baboula, Associate Dean, Fine Arts / Graduate Studies  
Dr. Alexandrine Boudreault-Fournier, Graduate Advisor, Anthropology  
Dr. Alexandre Brolo, Chair, Chemistry  
Dr. Jane Butterfield, President's Nominee, Mathematics and Statistics  
Dr. Adam Con, Music  
Ms. Andrea Giles, Executive Director, Co-Op & Career Services  
Dr. Robin Hicks, Dean, Graduate Studies  
Dr. Sandra Hundza, Director, Exercise Science, Physical and Health Education  
Mr. Cole Kennedy, Student Senator  
Dr. Annalee Lepp, Dean, Humanities  
Dr. Geoff Loomer, Associate Dean, Administration and Research, Law  
Dr. Cynthia Milton, VPRI's Designate, Vice President Research and Innovation  
Dr. Tania Muir, Director, Languages, Arts and Cultures, Continuing Studies

Dr. Pablo Restrepo Gaultier, Grad Advisor, Hispanic and Italian Studies, Humanities  
Dr. Maureen Ryan, Associate Dean, Academic, Human and Social Development  
Dr. Kristin Semmens, VPAC's Designate, Germanic and Slavic Studies  
Dr. Henning Struchtrup, Mechanical Engineering  
Ms. Wendy Taylor, Acting Registrar  
Khushi Wadhwa, UVSS Representative  
Dr. Jie Zhang, Peter B. Gustvason School of Business  
Ms. Christine McLaughlin, Acting Secretary

## Office of the Vice-President Academic and Provost

Michael Williams Building  
University of Victoria  
T 250-721-7013 | F 250-721-7216  
provasst@uvic.ca | uvic.ca/vpac

---

DATE: February 1, 2024

TO: Senate Committee on Planning

FROM: Elizabeth Croft, Vice-President Academic and Provost

**RE: Delivery of UBC Faculty of Medicine Distributed Programs**

### Summary

Through this proposed partnership, UVic would offer UBC's Master of Physical Therapy and Master of Science Program in Speech-Language Pathology. UVic and UBC have begun drafting a Memorandum of Agreement (MOU).

In response to urgent health services needs in British Columbia and to further build capacity for health care and health education and research on Vancouver Island, the University of Victoria (UVic) and the University of British Columbia (UBC) are proposing a partnership to expand medical education offered by the UBC Faculty of Medicine into Vancouver Island and coastal communities. Through this proposed partnership, UVic would offer UBC's Master of Physical Therapy (MPT-VIC) and Master of Science Program in Speech-Language Pathology (SLP-VIC) as fully distributed programs at UVic. UVic and UBC have negotiated a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to offer the distributed programs starting August 2024.

We are hereby seeking Senate Committee on Planning approval and recommendation to Senate to approve and recommend to the Board of Governors that it also approve the proposed delivery of the MPT-VIC and SLP-VIC programs at UVic pursuant to the memorandum of agreement to be concluded between the UVic and UBC. The key terms of the agreement are outlined in this memorandum.

### Motion

*THAT the Senate Committee on Planning recommend to Senate that it approve and recommend to the Board of Governors that it also approve delivery of the University of British Columbia Faculty of Medicine Master of Physical Therapy and Speech Language*

*Pathology programs as distributed programs at UVic in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement.*

## **Background**

Since 2004, UVic has offered UBC's Island Medical Program (IMP)—a mutually beneficial distributed education model that led to the creation of UVic's Division of Medical Sciences. The IMP has contributed to the number of physicians on Vancouver Island and coastal communities.

To address a shortage of healthcare professionals in other critical fields, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills have provided funding to expand the UBC Faculty of Medicine's Master of Physical Therapy (MPT) and Master of Science Program in Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) outside the BC lower mainland and provide training on Vancouver Island.

Specifically, the funding is for the delivery of the:

- Master of Physical Therapy program at UVic (MPT-VIC), as a fully distributed academic program of the UBC MPT to increase recruitment and retention of physiotherapists in areas of BC outside the lower mainland; and
- Master of Science Program in Speech-Language Pathology program at UVic (SLP-VIC), as a fully distributed academic program of the UBC SLP to increase recruitment and retention of speech-language pathologists in areas of BC outside the lower mainland.

The establishment of these distributed programs at UVic, together with the IMP, will provide opportunities for UVic students, faculty and researchers in health and allied health areas to work collaboratively with those in the distributed programs to promote holistic health education, practice and research.

This timely proposal also aligns with UVic's direction to establish a new Faculty of Health, including through new inter-professional training, practice and research opportunities. Offering these two UBC programs will help to raise UVic's health profile, advancing the goals and priorities of our Strategic Plan, Distinctly UVic, and Aspiration 2030 while also supporting a diverse community of interdisciplinary health scholars to achieve excellence and address critical societal challenges.

## **Previous consultation**

At the December 1, 2023 meeting of Senate, the Vice-President Academic and Provost informed Senate of UVic's intention to enter into a memorandum of agreement with UBC to deliver the UBC Faculty of Medicine's Master of Physical Therapy (MPT) and Master of Science Program in Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) as fully distributed academic programs (MPT-VIC and SLP-VIC) at UVic. The two institutions have negotiated a memorandum of agreement (MOA) that includes governance structure,

programming and curriculum, faculty and staffing, space and equipment, and communications responsibilities. It is proposed that three committees with membership from UBC and UVic be established to assist with the development and operation of the programs: a steering and advisory committee, an MPT-VIC implementation committee, and an SLP-VIC implementation committee.

### **Key terms of the agreement**

UBC and UVic intend to begin the distributed programs in August 2024 with 20 seats in the MPT-VIC program and 8 seats in the SLP-VIC program. UBC is responsible for the academic program for students, including the curriculum of studies and assessing the academic performance of students for both programs in accordance with their respective accreditation requirements. MPT-VIC and SLP-VIC students will complete their academic education and as much of their clinical education as possible in Vancouver Island and rural communities.

The admissions committees of the MPT and SLP programs will include representations from the UVic distributed site. UVic will participate in program evaluation activities, including the accreditation processes. Students will be registered as UBC students and UVic will confer affiliate status, entitling them to UVic academic and campus services. UVic's policies respecting campus conduct, campus activities and access to campus resources will govern MPT-VIC and SLP-VIC students when they are on the UVic campus (includes the temporary location at Vancouver Island Technology Park - see below).

UBC and UVic will recruit faculty to the two distributed programs. Faculty will hold primary appointments at either UBC or at UVic. The MPT-VIC program will have a "Site Lead, Academic" and a "Site Lead, Clinical," and the SLP-VIC program will have a "Site Lead"—all of whom will be UBC faculty members. As well, there will be two UVic research-stream faculty members who will contribute to teaching in each of the distributed programs.

Terms and conditions of employment of faculty members who have their regular academic appointment at UVic are governed by the Collective Agreement between UVic and the UVic Faculty Association. All UBC faculty appointees at UVic will have non-remunerated academic appointments at UVic (e.g., adjunct academic, affiliate academic or clinical adjunct appointment as appropriate) in accordance with UVic policies and regulations governing these appointments. All UVic faculty appointees teaching in the distributed programs will have affiliate appointments at UBC in accordance with UBC policies and regulations governing these appointments.

UVic will employ an "Administration Manager, IT, Program and Classroom Support" and other staff required to support both the MPT-VIC and the SLP-VIC programs at the UVic site. All UVic staff will be employees of UVic, whose terms and conditions of employment are governed by applicable UVic collective agreements and other terms and conditions of employment.

In the short term, the two distributed programs will operate primarily out of renovated space leased at the Vancouver Island Technology Park, using funds provided for this purpose by the BC Government. UVic and UBC have entered into a memorandum of understanding around the lease and operation of the temporary space. Longer term, UVic intends to seek government funding for a new purpose-built building to be constructed on UVic's Gordon Head campus, aligned with our health vision and aspirations. The intention of all parties is to move the distributed programs to the Gordon Head campus, ideally into the new building. Capital planning is still in its early stages and will be contingent on funding negotiated between UVic and the BC Government.

### **Next steps**

The establishment of the MPT-VIC and SLP-VIC programs as distributed education sites of the UBC MPT and SLP programs is contingent upon and subject to the approval of UVic and UBC Senates and Boards of Governors. UBC is simultaneously working through their governance processes. Once approved, UVic will prepare to welcome students to the MPT-VIC and SLP-VIC distributed programs at the recently renovated space at the Vancouver Island Technology Park in August 2024.