

**The University of Manitoba  
Dr. Gerald Niznick College of Dentistry**

**Dentistry College Council  
Meeting Minutes**

**DATE:** Monday, April 27, 2026

**TIME:** 12:30 p.m.

**LOCATION:** Schwartz Theatre

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*Special Guests: U of M President and Provost*

*A Nowakowski is the Spokesperson*

**1. The President and Provost attended and provided a high-level overview of current institutional priorities and challenges.**

- Budget has been approved by Board of Governors
- Tuition fees will be increasing by 4% for domestic and 8% for international students; for domestic dental tuition fees, who are the lowest in Western Canada, the President and Provost have brought it to the attention of the Provincial Government and discussions are ongoing.
- Construction is taking place across the entire institution to update infrastructure.
- Approval of the UM Strategic Plan will be brought to Senate.
- Meeting with all faculties, making a plan on how to best to retain students.
- Looking at University One program to ensure that there is a smooth transition for students into degree programs.

**Discussion:**

BSc Dent student fees are 3x more than BSc Med students. The two programs are comparable. Students brought to the ADR's attention the differential tuition. Dr. Nickerson was in favor of reducing BSc Dent fees. The UM finance committee has denied the request. ACTION: Dr. Hiebert- Murphy will investigate the matter. There is a parking issue for patients & students. In between the new and old Dentistry building there may be parking available. ACTION: President Benarroch will discuss with Raman to see what is planned for that space.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

**Motion: "THAT the Agenda be approved".**

Motion/Second P Chelikani/A Kim

Motion carried

**3. Approval of the Minutes of the February 23, 2026 meeting**

**Motion: "THAT the Minutes of February 23, 2026 be approved".**

Motion/Second J Lyon/A Haimeur

Motion carried

#### 4. **Business arising from the Minutes**

None

#### 5. **Standing Items**

##### 5.1 **Rady Faculty of Health Sciences Update**

- U of M celebrating 150 years in 2027. Opportunity to volunteer as a college in an outreach activity to celebrate the 150 years. Also, opportunity to highlight your external volunteerism activities. Opportunity to provide a photograph as part of a U of M collage.  
ACTION: If there is interest in creating an outreach event please inform A Cholakis.
- As part of UM University One review discussion about alignment of pre-requisites of B. DH, Midwifery, Nursing and Respiratory Therapy are being discussed, so students can have opportunities in different healthcare areas.
- RFHS Research, Scholarly Work and Creative Activity Guidelines have been finalized and will be distributed. Important for all faculty to review for activity reports and Promotion and Tenure.

##### 5.2 **Dr. Gerald Niznick College of Dentistry Update**

- Congratulations:
  - A Saleem for being a recipient of the 2025 Science Co-op Supervisor Excellence Award.
  - P Chelikani, G Kirouac and A Saleem for their Oral Biology PhD Graduate Students for their success in the 2025-26 RFHS Graduate Studentship Awards Competition.
  - T Reeve and clinical instructors – many patient positive testimonials this year.
- Dates:
  - MDA Grad Breakfast- Monday, June 1, 2026
  - Convocation - Monday, June 1, 2026
  - DH3 Graduation Dinner – May 30, 2026
  - D4 Graduation Dinner - Tuesday, June 2, 2026
  - Canadian Oral Health Summit - June 18-20, 2026 in Saskatoon
  - Welcome to grad students and CPD college event-August 20, 2026 lunch and afternoon presentation
  - Inaugural Education Day organized by D Schonwetter held ½ day in Fall Term 2026.
  - Sent out Action Plan for the Strategic Plan, there were no suggestions– ACTION: D Silva will send out, again.

## Research Announcements - P Chelikani:

- Two NSERC-DG grants (Fall 2025 competition):
  - Dr. Kangmin Duan, 5-year research grant, \$240,000 (total).
  - Dr. Prashen Chelikani, 5-year research grant, \$390,000 (total).
- NCOHR National Student Research Award (2025 recipient - Undergraduate Category): Rosa Iranpour, DMD/BSc (Dent) student, Supervisor: Dr. Devi Atukorallaya.
- Dr. Gerald Niznick College of Dentistry received a CRC-2 for recruitment. This is in collaboration with Cancer Care Manitoba in the broad area of Oral Cancer Biology.
- Research Day is scheduled for Thursday, January 28, 2027. Thank you K Yerex and A Saleem who have agreed to co-chair again.
- A student research group is being formed with representatives from DMD/Graduate residents/PhD students to represent our College at NCOHR and CADR student research groups.

ACTION: A Cholakis to check with Graduate Program Directors to nominate one resident and one PhD student for a 3-year term.

## 6. New Business

### 6.1 IDDP Significant Modification Proposal to Program of Study N Boorberg

**Motion: “THAT Dentistry College Council approve the proposal for a significant modification to a program of study, extending the International Dentist Degree Program to a three-year program, and further, THAT the proposal be referred to Rady Faculty of Health Sciences Executive Council for review and consideration”.**

Motion/Second D Schonwetter/J Perry  
Motion carried

### Discussion

- 35 is the maximum that can be accommodated into the program
- All other programs in Canada, with the exception of U of Saskatchewan have already transitioned to three-year programs.

### 6.2 Endowment Fund Advisory Terms of Reference P Chelikani (for information only)

Document available.

### 6.3 Dean’s Awards (for information only) A Cholakis

Updated terms are being adopted, including the clause of no consecutive year recipients. Awardees will be eligible 3 years after their last selection. The rationale is for this change is the opportunity to nominate a variety of academics and staff.

Another update is that should there be a tie, there should be a revote.

#### **6.4 Dental Hygiene New Program Proposals Updates**

**M Bertone**

##### Admissions & Transfer Criteria:

Applicants must also complete a 6 credit hour elective course(s). Sociology courses are recommended for electives.

##### Canadian Indigenous Admissions Category and Interviews

Admissions process and procedures have been reviewed by K Yerex and Ongomiizwin.

Indigenous applications will be short listed by two or more members of the interview panel that will then recommend candidates to be invited for in person interviews.

##### Occupation Background Admissions Category:

Must have a minimum of two years of clinical work experience at 0.5 EFT (50%) or greater within the past three years in a health-care setting, in roles that involve client care and hands-on clinical responsibilities.

The admissions committee will assess the clinical work experience to determine its eligibility.

For the Occupational Background Applicant Pool, at least one reference must be able to speak to the applicant's recent clinical experience (within the past 3 years).

Full document available.

#### **6.5 Curriculum Project Update**

**D Schönwetter**

**Composed of:** V Swain, C Webb, D Schonwetter, G Kirouac, J Perry

There are 58 undergraduate courses.

For more information, please see the attached Curriculum Project Update.

This is due on June 5, 2027.

D Schönwetter will hold a training session.

Full document available.

#### **6.6 Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

A Cholakis  
CHAIRPERSON

April 27, 2026  
DATE  
(That Minutes are accepted/signed)

Attendance List Attached to 'File Copy' of Minutes