

Towards a New Vision for Public Health Programming

Provost, Tony Vannelli

University Senate
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New vision for interdisciplinary programming at USask

“The big problems of the world will not be solved by an individual researcher working in isolation within a single discipline.”

Peter Stoicheff

Background

- The original mission of the School of Public Health was to ‘engage in interdisciplinary teaching, research and practice to improve the health outcomes of the people of Saskatchewan, Canada and the world’
- With the University Plan now in place, this bold mission can be strengthened and better realized by revisiting SPH governance and administrative structures
- The vision – which will take time to develop and enact – is to find the right governance and administrative structures to strengthen and support the success of interdisciplinary health sciences at USask

Next Steps

- Our university's commitment to public health has evolved and matured to the point where a new academic administrative structure is needed.
- With our top scientific facilities, we are positioned like no other to be a transformational leader in this area. We just have to make sure we have the right academic administrative structure in place.
- It has become clear that a stand-alone unit, such as the School of Public Health (SPH) is no longer the appropriate conduit to achieve our bold ambitions for public health programming and interdisciplinarity.
- A transition of SPH is recommended, while ensuring the academic programs will be maintained and strengthened.

The Process

- The *University of Saskatchewan Act 1995* outlines the powers of the Senate, Council, and Board of Governors including the disestablishment of any college, school or department, and we will be following the necessary procedures during this process.
- The order for approvals for School of Public Health disestablishment and transition is as follows: The Council “where it considers it appropriate” may authorize the disestablishment of the School, confirmation will then be sought by Senate; with the completion of these steps, the Board has ultimate authority, considers and provides for the disestablishment of SPH and determination of the new interdisciplinary entity supporting public health.

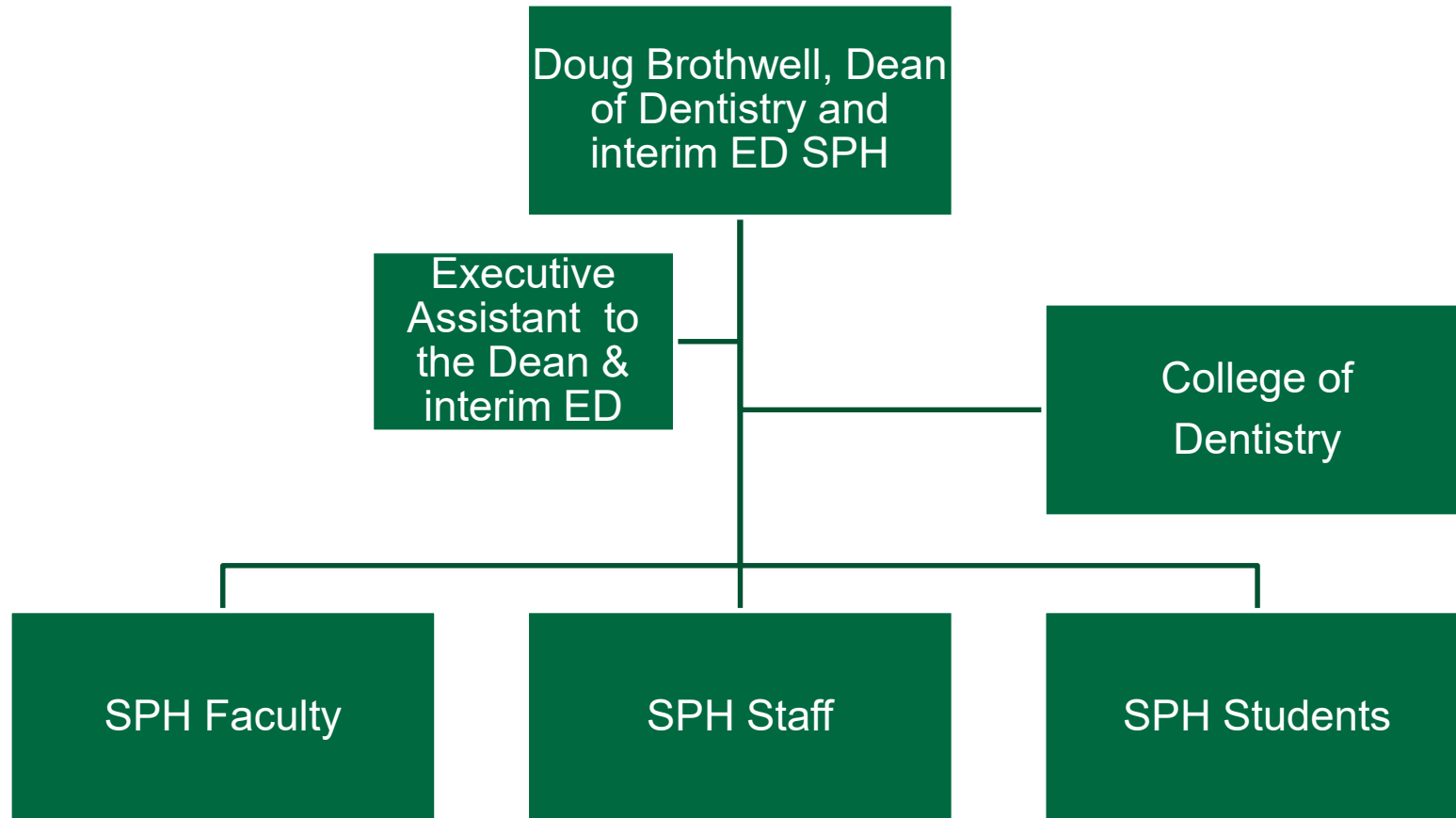
Process Overview



Leadership

- The Provost is responsible for the restructuring of interdisciplinary public health programming at USask and the transition of SPH
- Dr. Doug Brothwell, Dean of the College of Dentistry assumed leadership of SPH as interim Executive Director, and institutional responsibility for the programs
- Dr. Steven Jones, previous ED of SPH transitioned to Associate Provost, Health Sciences

SPH Institutional Responsibility



Impact on Faculty:

- The Interim ED will have responsibility for the assignment of teaching duties until the programs have been transferred to the permanent academic home
- The Interim ED will be also be responsible for the assignment of duties for SPH faculty for 2019/20, and until such time as the transfers of faculty have been approved
- Standards and processes for promotion and tenure will comply with the USFA Collective Agreement
- No faculty will lose their jobs as a result of this reorganization

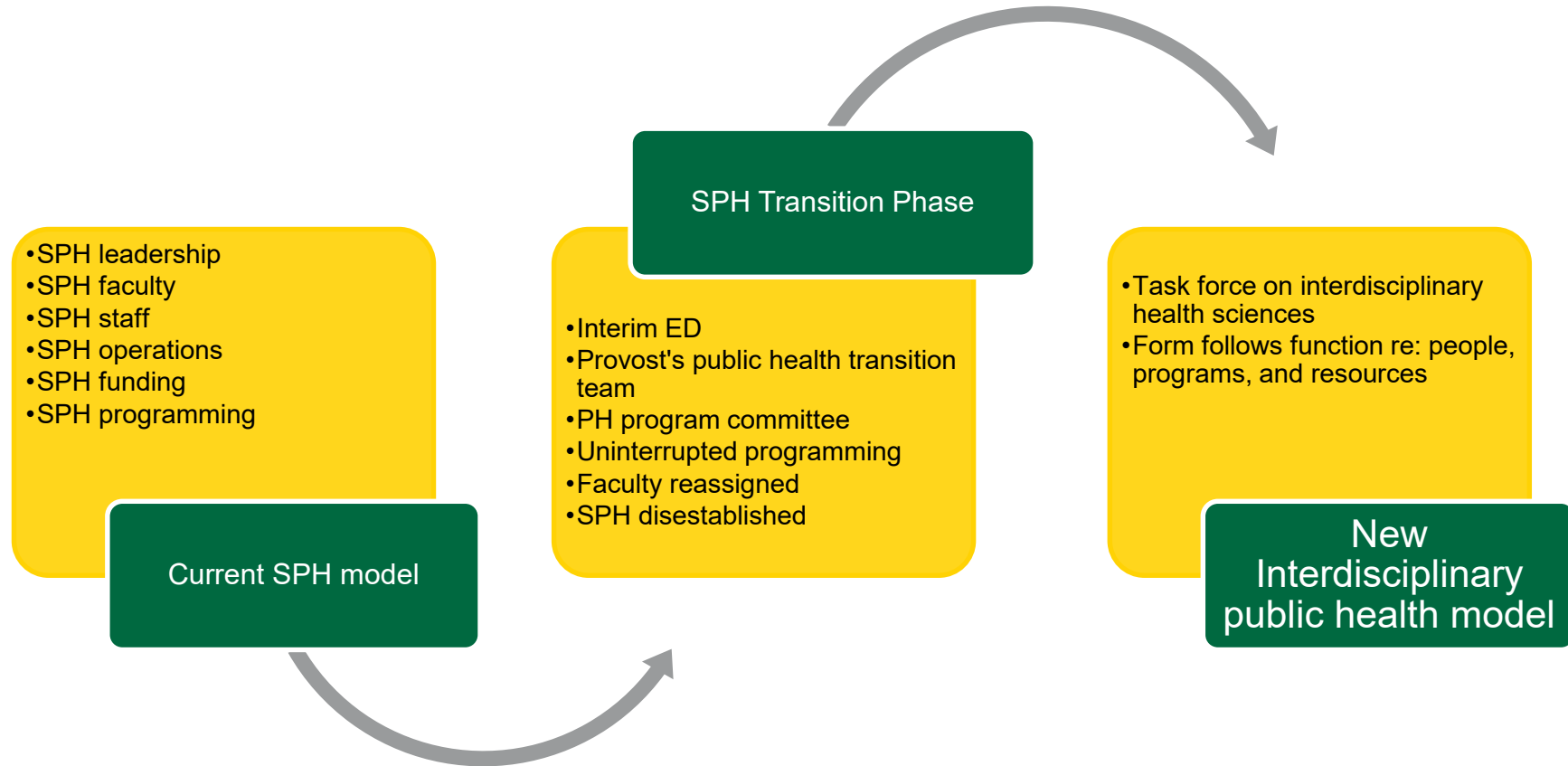
Impact on Staff:

- No staff will lose their jobs as a result of this reorganization
- During the transition, the objective is to keep people connected to the resources that they need to do their jobs
- As of August 1, staff now report to the Dean of Dentistry/Interim ED

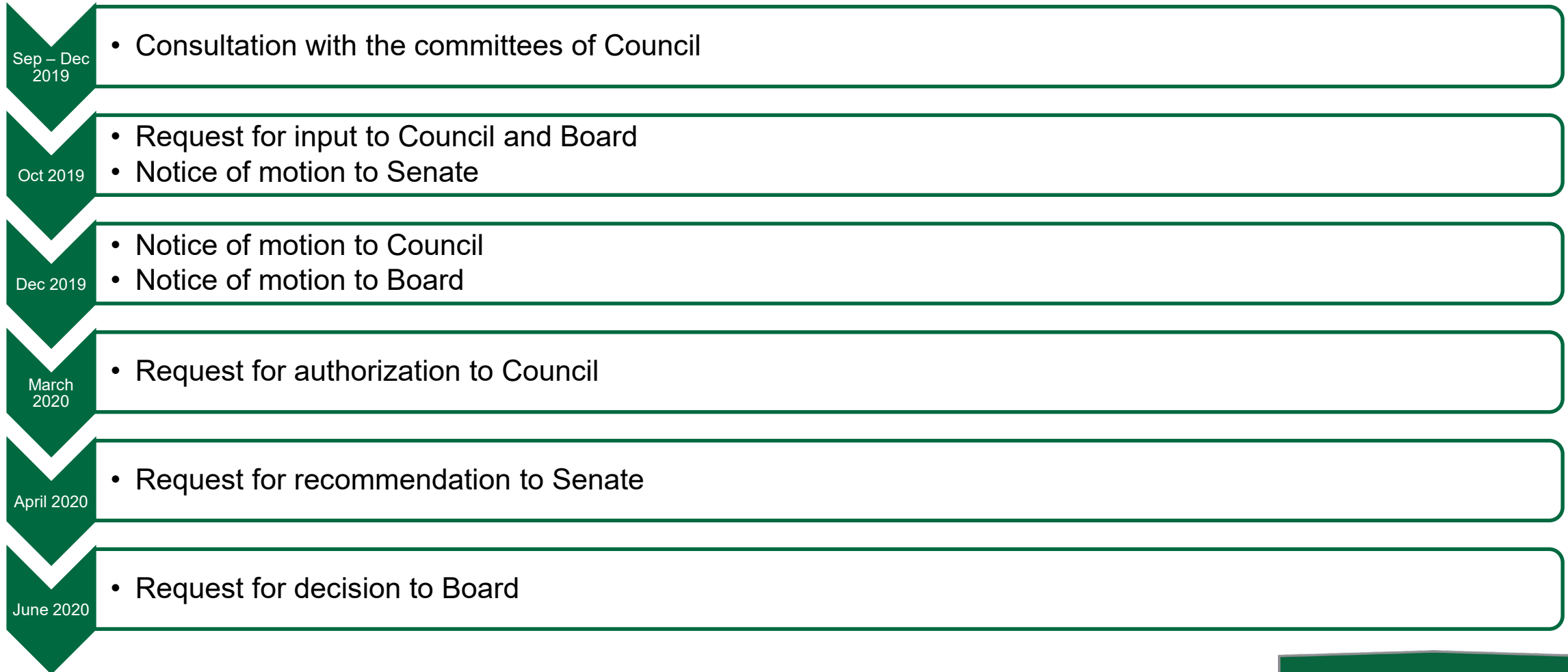
Impact on Students:

- All current and future students enrolled in public health programs will continue without interruption
- Students will continue to be enrolled in the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, with their progress in the programs administered by the College of Dentistry
- USask will continue to offer and actively recruit students into Public Health programs
- The Provost and interim ED are engaged in discussions with the students

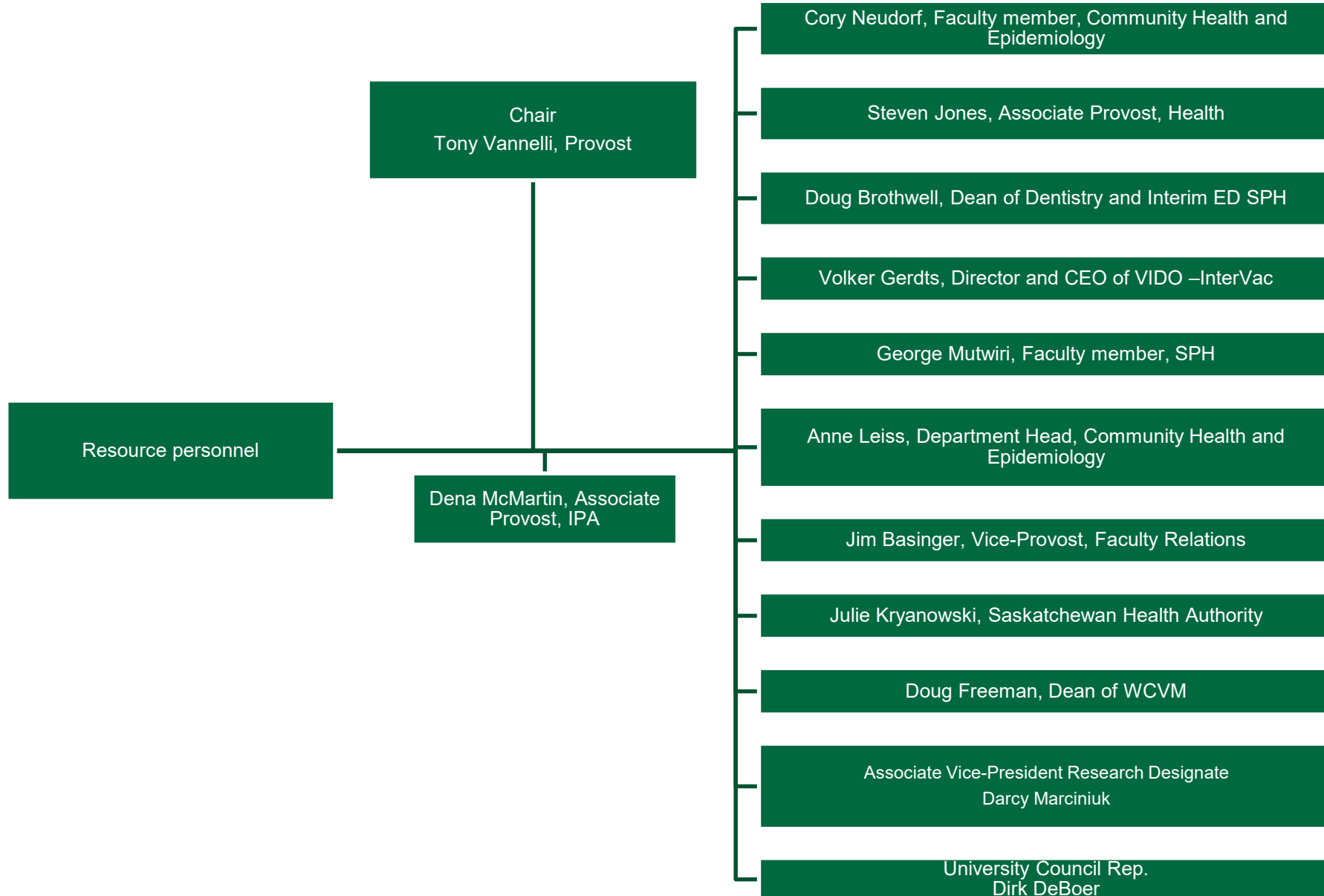
Public Health Transition Plan



Public Health timeline



Public Health Task Force



This new direction will have an improved interdisciplinary focus around public health and other areas, along with the governance structure that will allow us to go forward and meet the goals we set out in the plan.

Questions?