

MEMORANDUM

To: Faculty of Health Sciences, President's Leadership Team, Senate, Campus Council, SOGS and USC Executive, Affiliate University College Presidents

Cc: Decanal Selection Committee

From: Florentine Strzelczyk, Provost & Vice-President (Academic)

Date: December 2, 2024

Re: Leadership Appointment: Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences

On behalf of Western's Board of Governors, President Alan Shepard, and the Health Sciences Decanal Selection Committee, I am delighted to announce that **Shaun Boe** has accepted a five-year term as Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, effective April 1, 2025.

An accomplished scholar and leader, Shaun comes to Western from Dalhousie University where he has served as the Associate Dean Research in the Faculty of Health since 2018. Shaun is also a Professor in the School of Physiotherapy with cross-appointments in the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience, the School of Health and Human Performance (Kinesiology) and the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. With extensive academic and leadership experience in a Faculty similar in scope and complexity to Western, Shaun is well-equipped to advance opportunities and build on the strengths within our Faculty of Health Sciences.

Through his considerable experience in strategic planning, a collaborative leadership style and a commitment to evidence and data-based decision making, Shaun has a proven track record of translating ideas into action. As Associate Dean Research, Shaun has played a key role in advancing the Faculty's strategic research goals and priorities. Under his leadership the Faculty has doubled its research income, significantly increased grant application success, and added \$6.5M of new research space. With support from researchers in health equity and resilience, Shaun led the Faculty's efforts to establish hubs for research in Indigenous and Black health while securing three new Chair positions in these areas as well as the renewal of a Tier 2 CRC in Indigenous Peoples' Health and Well-Being.

Shaun's research seeks to advance understanding of skill acquisition and motor learning and their application in neurorehabilitation and applied neurotechnology. His multi-disciplinary tri-council-funded research program has obtained \$2M in funding, engaged more than 60 trainees, and produced more than 100 peer-reviewed products. Shaun is also the academic lead and head of *Pulse*, a provincially funded sandbox that trains students in the health-related Faculties in innovation and entrepreneurship.

After spending the past 15 years at Dalhousie, Shaun is excited to return to his alma mater at Western where he obtained his PhD in Kinesiology in 2006 and Master of Physical Therapy in 2008.

I'd like to acknowledge and thank the members of the Selection Committee for their role and collaborative efforts over the past several months: **Marilyn Ford-Gilboe** (Distinguished University Professor and Women's Health Research Chair in Rural Health, FHS), **Nick Harney** (Dean, Faculty of Social Science), **Gabrielle Muzzi** (graduate student), **Elena Pampalonia** (undergraduate student), **Penny Pexman** (Vice-President Research), **Charles Rice** (Professor, School of Kinesiology), **Alison Rushton** (Director and Professor, School of Physical Therapy), **Marie Savundranayagam** (Associate Professor, School of Health Studies), **Saverio Stranges** (Professor and Department Chair, Epidemiology and Biostatistics), and **Ana Luisa Trejos** (Professor and CRC in Wearable Mechatronics, Electrical and Computer Engineering).

On a final note, I want to extend my sincere appreciation to Jayne Garland for her significant contributions to supporting and advancing the Faculty of Health Sciences throughout her two terms as Dean.