



**UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA**

FoMD Town Hall

Biomedical Sciences Departmental Structure

June 17, 2026



Welcome

The University of Alberta, its buildings, labs and research stations are primarily located on the territory of the Néhiyaw (Cree), Niitsitapi (Blackfoot), Métis, Nakoda (Stoney), Dene, Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) and Anishinaabe (Ojibway/Saulteaux), lands that are now known as part of Treaties 6, 7 and 8 and homeland of the Métis. The University of Alberta respects the sovereignty, lands, histories, languages, knowledge systems and cultures of all First Nations, Métis and Inuit nations.

Biomedical Sciences Review – The Purpose

To advance Biomedical Sciences education and research

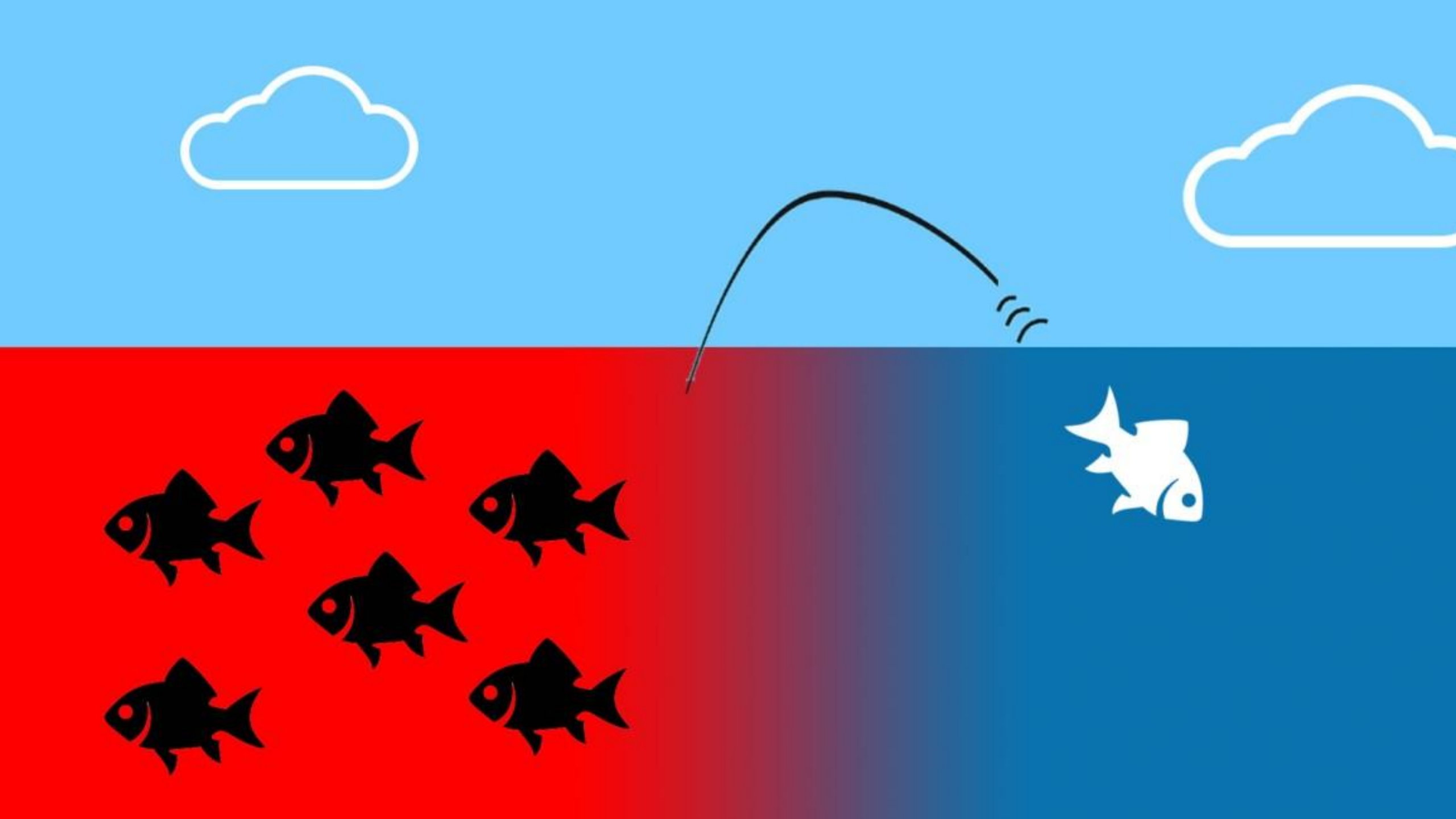
- Innovative educational programs & world-leading research**

Based on broad consultation and reviews

- Internal & external**

Biomedical Sciences Working







FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY

Biomedical Sciences Review

Prepared for: Dr. Hemmelgarn, Dean Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry;
circulation beyond the Dean is at the Dean's discretion.

Prepared by: Biomedical Sciences Working Group

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

Biomedical Sciences Working Group Report



External Review

External Reviewers



Ted Allison
(UofA)



Lynne Postovit
(Queens)



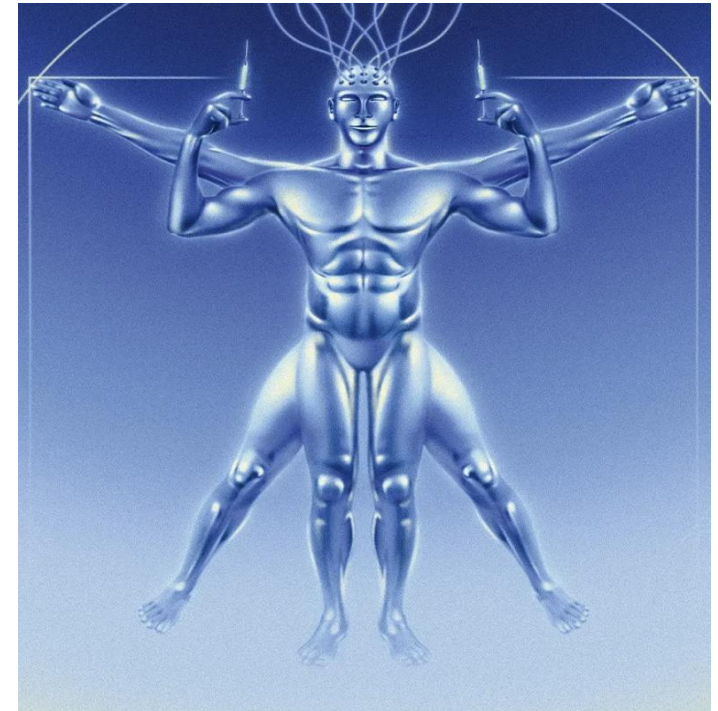
Marie Jose Hébert
(UMontréal)

Summary of Recommendations

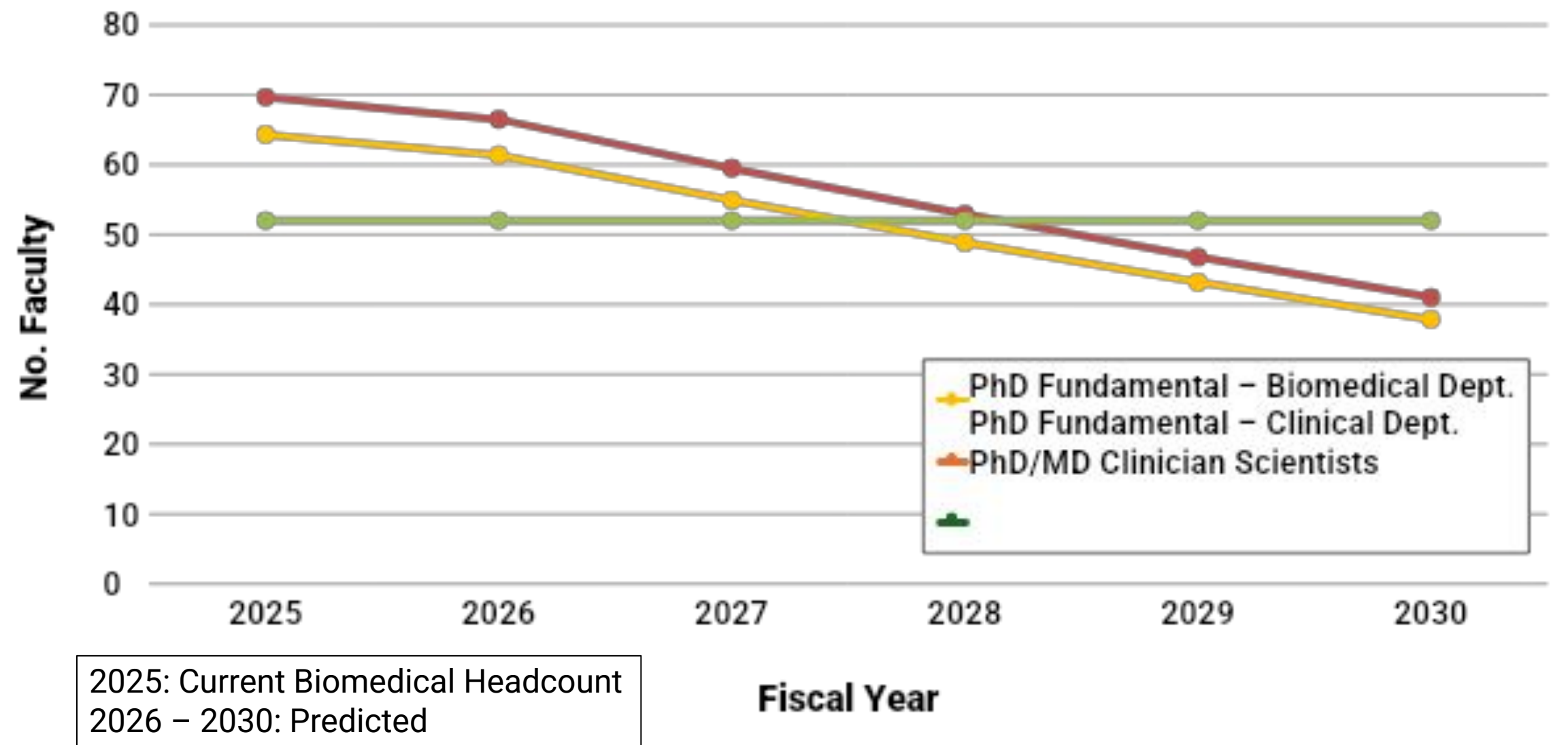
From Internal & External Reviews – Action Plan

Area of focus:	Internal Review	External Review	Assigned to / Lead
Communication	Communicate central role of BMS in FoMD	Strong communication plan	Communications
	Elevate BMS through public engagement		Communications; OoR
Collaboration	FoMD-wide seminar series		OoR
	Strategic recruitment: interdisciplinary opportunities	Strategic hires to bridge basic and clinical depts	Dept Chairs, Institute Directors
	Space planning – to foster interaction		Space planning
	Digital tools to connect faculty		OoR (FoMD and CHS)
	Faculty wide mentorship strategy		Faculty Affairs, OoR, strategic plan
Funding Opportunities	Philanthropy – faculty-wide strategy		Development (Kim)
		Transparent budget model so faculty realize benefits of teaching	SFP, Dean
Department Organization	Distributed to concentrated		To be determined
Education	Strategically evolve UG biomedical education	Strategic alignment btw curricular development and BMS faculty	New working group
	Funding strategy for grad students and PDFs		SFP, OoR (Assoc Dean Grad), Chairs
	Align and standardize teaching expectations across the Faculty		Re-initiate prior working group; Chairs
Research	Adopt a standard faculty workload (40:40:20)		DEC; Dept Chairs; Faculty Council
	Prioritize internal peer review		OoR (FoMD and CHS)
	Standardize approach to start-up		SFP, OoR, Depts, Institutes
		Better alignment between research priorities (UA, FoMD Institutes)	OoR, Depts, Institutes
		Better harness the Institutes	OoR, Depts, Institutes
	Build clinician-scientist capacity (training, recruitment and retention a strategic priority)		RPPC, Depts, Institutes

The “Why” - 3 Forces

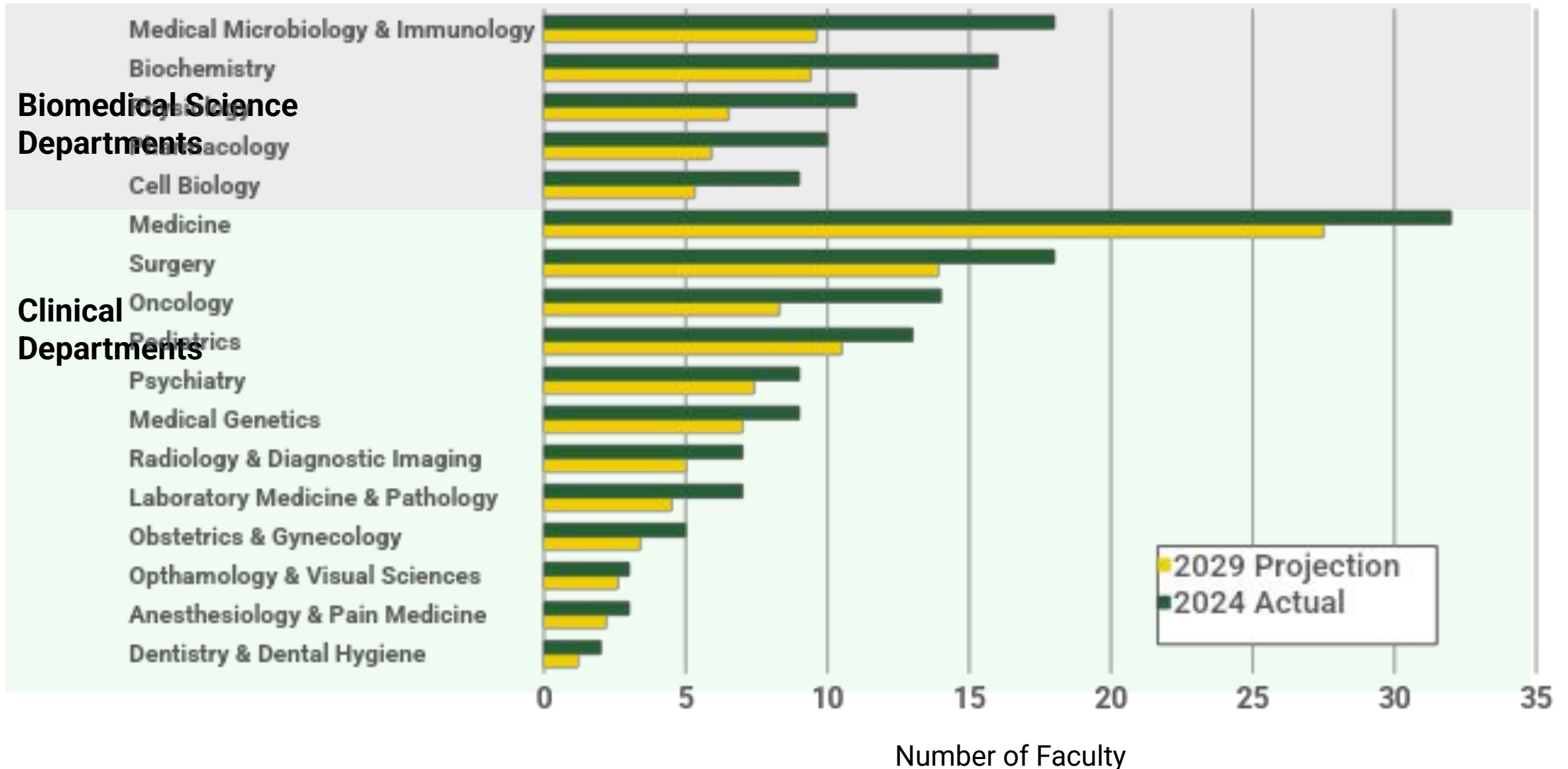


Anticipate Fewer Biomedical Sciences Faculty



Biomedical Science Faculty Headcount by Department

2024 Actual and 2029 Projections



Summary

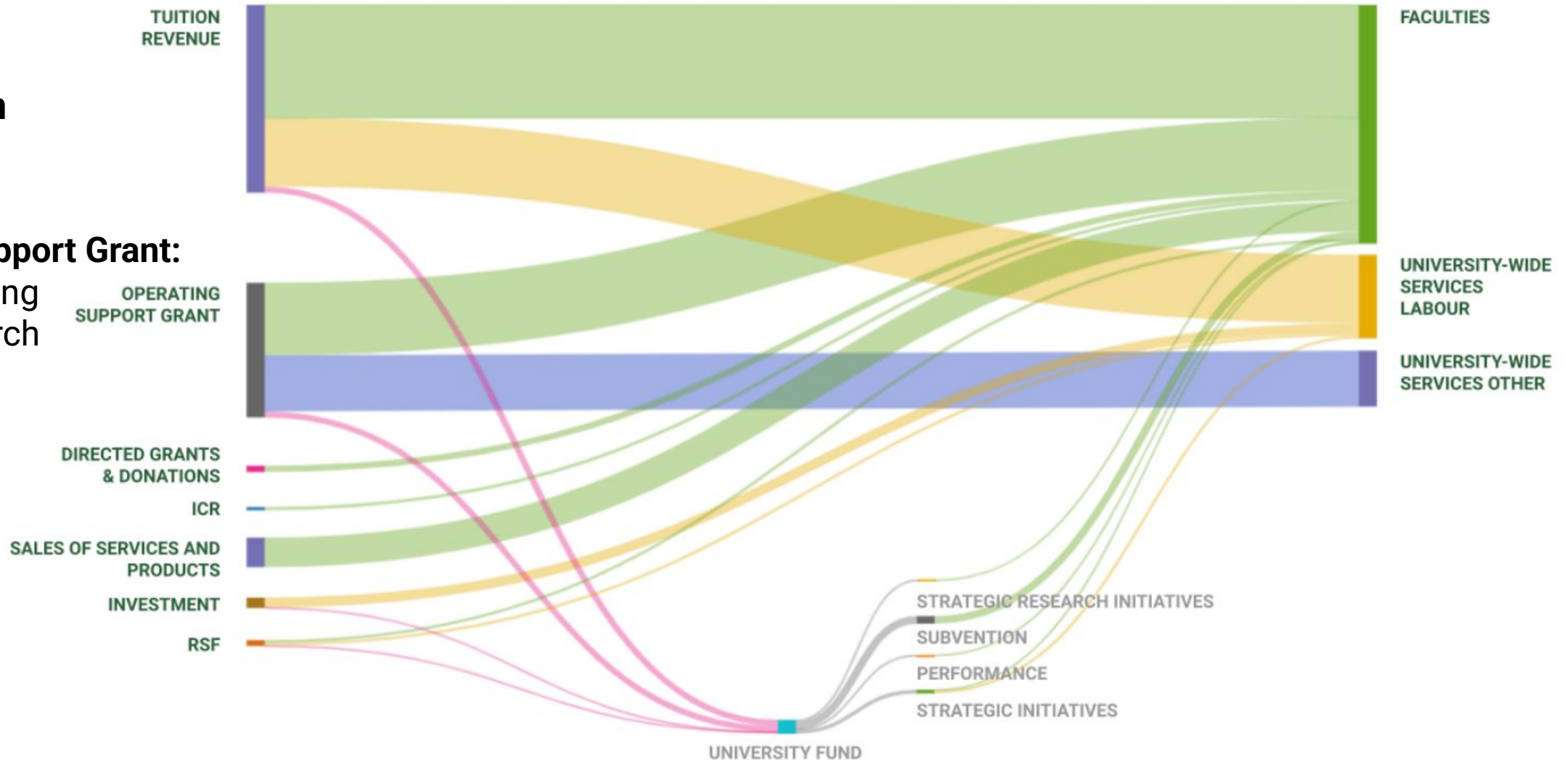
- Status quo is not an option
- Would result in Biomedical Depts not sustainable by critical mass
- There are opportunities to take advantage of now:
 - U of A enrolment growth - 45K to 60K by 2033
 - Innovative education programs, world-leading research
- There has been broad consultation and input
- The opportunity is now

Budget Model 2.0 Revenue Flow

Tuition

Operating Support Grant:

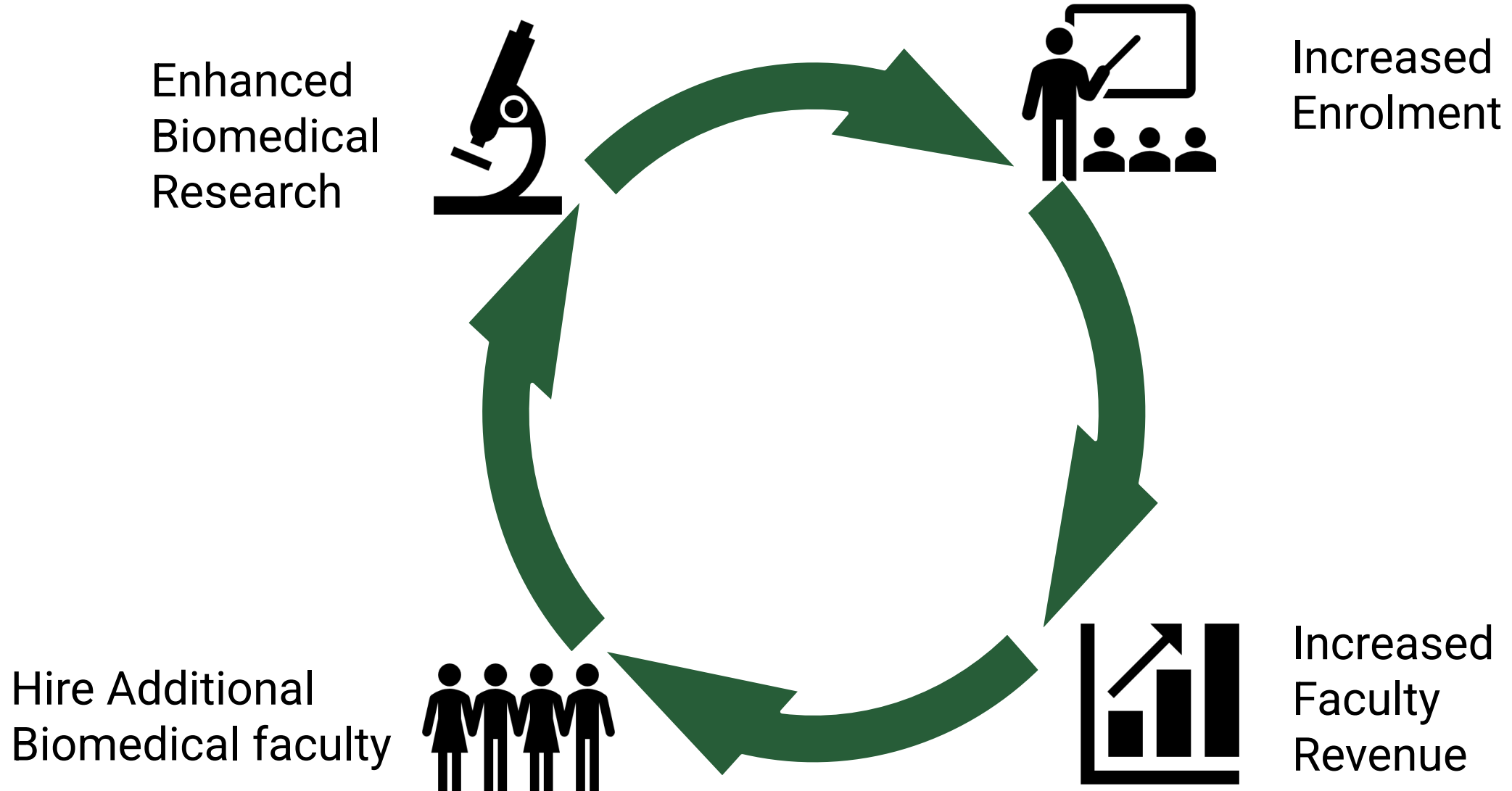
- 60% teaching
- 40% research



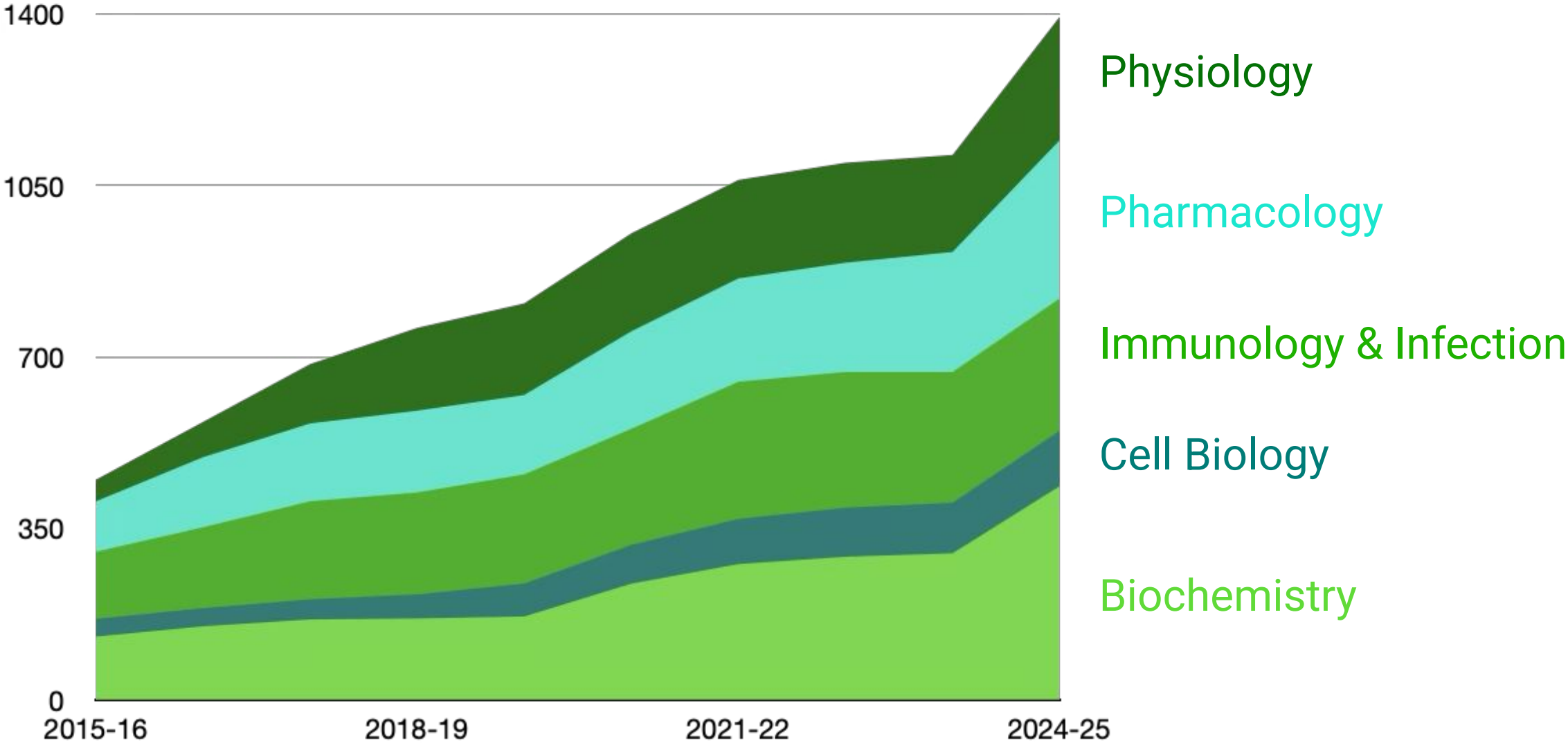
Strategic Opportunity Now at the U of A

- Budget Model 2.0 operating support grant allocation to Faculties:
 - 60% teaching / 40% research
- Tuition revenue split: 60/30/10 (Faculty/Central/Program)
- Enrolment growth:
 - 45K to 60K by 2033
- The opportunity is in teaching and growth in programs

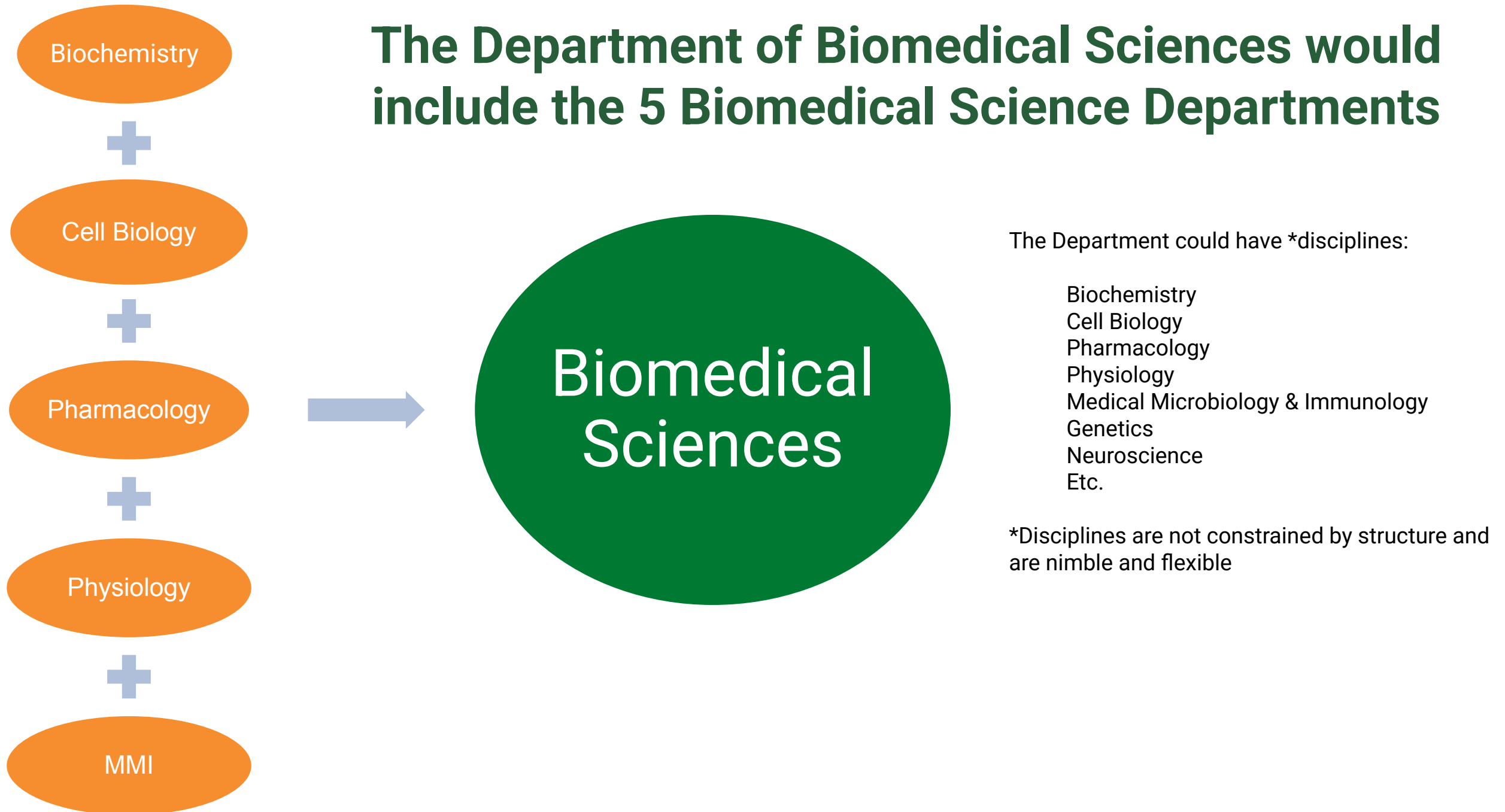
Self-Reinforcing Institutional Growth Cycle



Number of Students Enrolled in Undergraduate Science Programs in Biomedical Departments



The Department of Biomedical Sciences would include the 5 Biomedical Science Departments



Department of Biomedical Sciences

Personnel:

Department Chair
Leadership team:
Undergrad; Grad;
Research; Academic;
Admin support
HR/Finance
Knowledge Mobilization
...other

Biomedical Sciences

Disciplines:

Biochemistry Cell Biology
Pharmacology Physiology
MMI Genetics
Neuroscience
Etc.

Functions:

Academic programming
Recruitment
Promotion/merit
Oversight UG and Grad
Assign teaching & service
Mentor faculty / staff

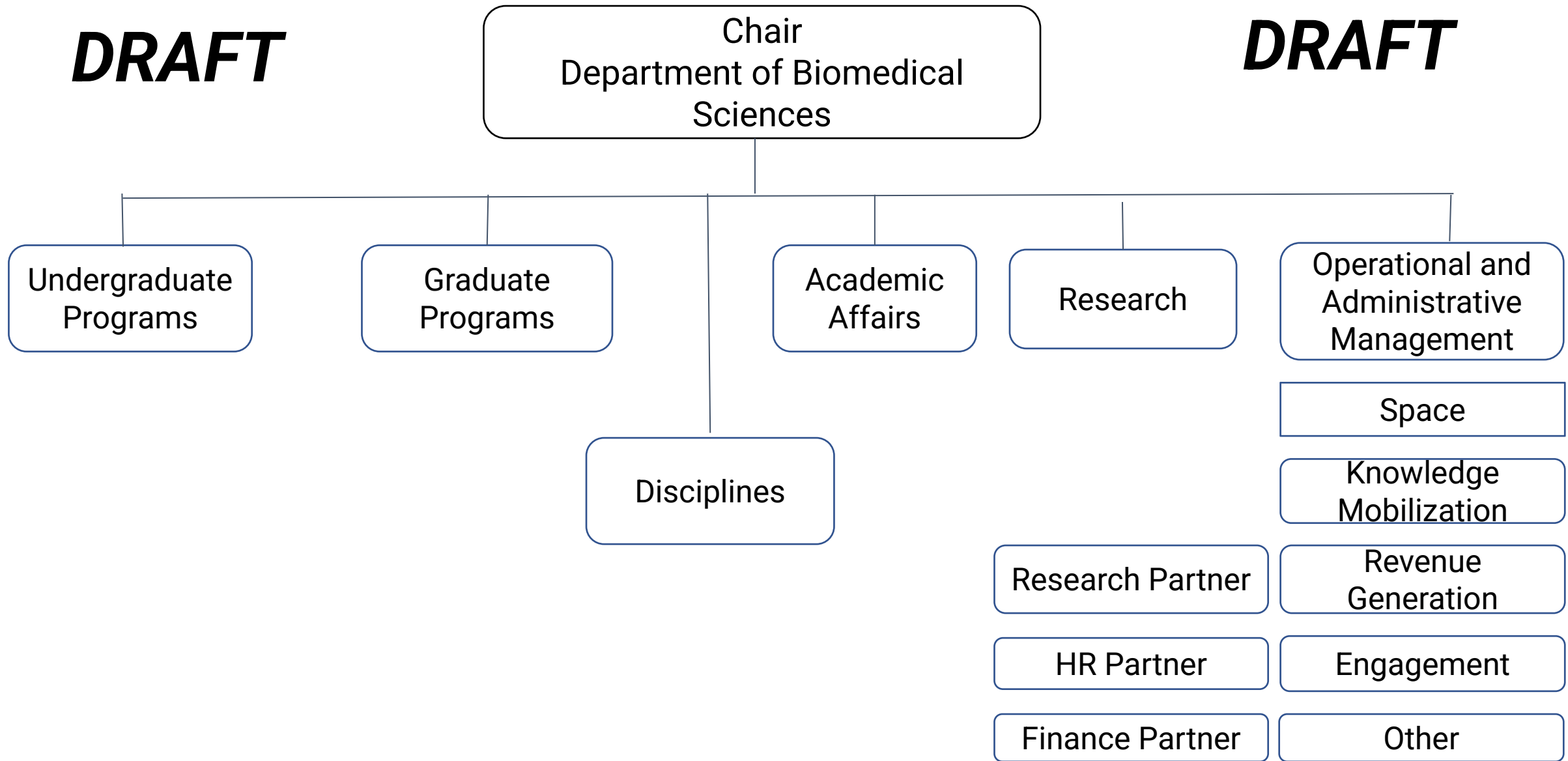
Undergraduate Programs

Graduate Programs

PhD faculty from clinical depts – Adjunct appointment

DRAFT

DRAFT



Considerations to Address

FEC – increase representation from Biomedical Sciences

PhD scientists in clinical departments – Adjunct appointment

Common spaces for like-minded researchers to promote collaborations and enrich training experience (no change to existing labs and offices etc)

Transition period; Evaluation after 3-5 years, with modifications

Opportunities & Incentives to Start

New faculty positions:

- Chair, Dept of Biomedical Sciences (internal / external recruitment)
- 3 Assistant Professor positions (enable a cohort hire)
- CRC Tier II – external recruitment (April 2028)

Strategic opportunities: Example - Priority for the *Canada Impact + Program*

Endowed Chair – tied to Department Chair (fund raising priority)

Tuition revenue split for new programs developed - consideration

Provost commitment

Governance Process for Dept Structure

Department Council / Faculty Council: No authority over decisions re: Dept structure

- **GFC – Academic Planning Committee - For recommendation**
- **GFC – Executive Committee (for placement on GFC agenda)**
- **GFC – For recommendation (may be part of consent agenda)**

- **Board Learning, Research & Student Experience Committee – For recommendation**

- **Board of Governors – For Approval**

Provost has authority to change Department structure

Timelines & Next Steps

Creation of Department of Biomedical Sciences

- Provost approval: February 12, 2026
- Meetings with Biomedical Sciences Department Chairs: Jan - Mar
- Approval by Biomedical Science Department Chairs: March 20, 2026
- Approval Dean's Executive Committee: March 23, 2026
- Approval at Department Chairs: April 8, 2026
- Meetings with each Department: April – June
- Town Halls: #1: June 17, 1:00–2:00, Katz 1080
- Faculty Councils: May 26 & Sept 22
- Student engagement: June & fall

Opportunities

- Critical mass and sustainable core to support education and research
- Strong unified voice to advance biomedical sciences for long-term excellence
- Strategically evolve undergraduate and graduate biomedical education
- Enhance training environments and student experience
- Standardized teaching expectations across the Faculty
- Strategic faculty hiring, including start-up packages
- Enhanced opportunities for mentorship and collaborations
- Close alignment with Research Institutes
- Opportunities for revenue generation (new programs, micro-credentials, Course-based Masters etc)

Questions and Discussion