MEMORANDUM

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September 7, 2007

To: Senate
c/o Lisa Collins, Assistant Registrar, Senate and Curriculum Services

From: David H. Farrar
Provost and Vice President Academic

Re: University of British Columbia / Providence Health Care
British Columbia Leadership Chair in Addiction Research

Recommendation:

I recommend that Senate approve the establishment of the British Columbia Leadership Chair in Addiction Research, made possible by endowment funding from the St. Paul's Hospital Foundation and the B.C. provincial government's Leading Edge Endowment Fund.

Rationale:

The B.C. Leadership Chairs were designed "to attract world class faculty to strengthen the province's capacity for innovative research and promote B.C. as a centre for cutting-edge research, enhancing economic development positioning the province as a leader in the knowledge-based economy." The Chair for Addiction Research was specifically and separately defined relative to chairs allocated in other research areas. Its purpose is to create new knowledge to improve the health of addicted populations.

The holder of the Chair will lead a research program to develop and evaluate new treatment approaches for addiction and conditions of co-morbidity, including mental health and HIV/AIDS, working with experts in fields encompassing genomics, neuroscience, pharmacology, psychology, clinical trials, epidemiology, behavioral science and anthropology, making B.C. a world centre for innovative addiction treatment science.

The B.C. Leadership Chair in Addiction Research will be located within the Centre for Health Evaluation and Outcome Sciences at St. Paul's Hospital and be closely aligned with the B.C. Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS also located at St. Paul's Hospital. The position holds joint appointments with the Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine and the Department of Psychiatry at Providence Health Care, and the Providence Health Care Research Institute.