

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL
REPORT NUMBER 116 OF
THE UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS BOARD

September 23, 2003

To the Governing Council,
University of Toronto.

Your Board reports that it met on Tuesday, September 23, 2003 at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Simcoe Hall, with the following members present:

Mr. Muhammad Basil Ahmad (in the Chair) Dr. John Wedge
Dr. Robert M. Bennett, Vice-Chair
Professor David Farrar, Vice Provost,
Students

Ms. Catherine Riggall, Assistant Vice-
President, Facilities and Services

Ms. Lisa Aldridge
Mr. John Badowski
Mr. Christopher M. Collins
Dr. Shari Graham Fell
Mr. Mike Foderick
Ms. Margaret Hancock
Professor Bruce Kidd
Mr. Sean Mullin
Dr. John P. Nestor
Ms. Parissa Safai
Ms. Rebecca Spagnolo
Ms. Maggy Stepanian

Non-voting Members:

Ms. Susan Addario, Director of Student Affairs
Mr. John Bisanti, Chief Capital Projects Officer
Mr. Louis R. Charpentier, Secretary of the
Governing Council
Ms. Marilyn Van Norman, Director, Student
Services
Professor Ron Venter, Vice-Provost,
Space and Facilities Planning

Office of the Governing Council:

Mrs. Beverley Stefureak, Secretary

Regrets:

Mr. Jason Hunter
Ms. Karen Lewis
Professor Michael Marrus

In Attendance:

Mr. Jim Delaney, Assistant Director, Student Affairs
Ms. Ranjini (Rini) Ghosh, President, Arts and Science Student Union
Professor Connie Guberman, Status of Women Officer
Ms. Anne Lewis, Manager, Student Accounts
Mr. Ashley Morton, President of the Students' Administrative Council (SAC)
Ms. Cristina Oke, Chief Returning Officer
Mr. Mahadeo Sukhai, Vice-President, Internal Affairs, Graduate Students' Union (GSU)
Mr. Howard Tam, Vice-President, University Affairs, SAC

ALL ITEMS ARE REPORTED TO THE GOVERNING COUNCIL FOR INFORMATION.

Chair's Remarks and Introductions

The Chair welcomed members to the first meeting of the new governance year, facilitated introductions and provided a brief orientation.

1. Report of the Previous Meeting

Report Number 115 of June 3, 2003 was approved.

2. Business Arising from the Report of the Previous Meeting

There was no business arising from the report of the previous meeting.

3. Calendar of Business for 2003-04

The Chair referred members to the Calendar of Business for 2003-04 that had been circulated with the Agenda. He saw the Calendar as a living document, changing as needed with each agenda planning meeting. He encouraged members to identify items of business in which they were particularly interested and take note of the timing for these to be brought forward to the Board. If a member wished to have input to the decision, the appropriate time to contact the assessor involved would be well in advance of the date on which the item was expected to be on the Board's agenda.

In response to questions, Professor Venter and Professor Farrar confirmed what was outlined on the Calendar of Business for and commented briefly on the Varsity Stadium Project and the Report on the Task Force on Student Housing.

In response to a question on approval deadlines for operating plans, Ms. Anne Lewis was invited to comment. She indicated that, while February consideration was preferable, approval as late as March could allow for the increased fees to be collected beginning May 1, 2004.

4. Report on Approvals under Summer Executive Authority

A memorandum from the Secretary had reported the appointment of a Chief Returning Officer under Summer Executive Authority. This was for information. There were no questions.

5. Policy on Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees – Proposed Minor Revision

A memorandum from Professor Farrar dated September 11, 2003 provided the background to the proposed revision to the *Policy on Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees*.

Mr. Morton and Mr. Tam had requested permission to speak. They were invited to do so by the Chair and both supported the proposed change. Professor Farrar confirmed that the change would clarify some residual ambiguity following the major revision in the past governance year and that the additional clauses would provide for the flexibility that student societies wanted.

A member asked what would happen in the event that a student society charged a summer fee and then provided no service during the summer period. Professor Farrar replied that

the University had the responsibility to ensure that fees were collected in accordance with University policy. Mr. Delaney added that policy required student societies to be in

6. Policy on Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees – Proposed Minor Revision (cont'd)

compliance with their constitutional process before they could request collection of a fee. The societies ultimately were accountable to their members. With respect to societies within the umbrella of a larger society, he stressed that those organizations who receive designated components of a parent society's fees do not have rights with respect to collection of fees which extend beyond the parent organization.

In response to a question, Mr. Delaney stated that the Board received semi-annually reports of all fees collected and any changes with respect to sessional implementation would be evident there.

On motion duly moved and seconded,

YOUR BOARD APPROVED

THAT the following section be added to the *Policy for Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees*:

B.7. In acknowledgement of the differing levels of service provided in the Summer Session, student society fees shall be charged in the Summer Session when this principle is supported through the appropriate and due constitutional decision-making process within the society.

a. Fees charged in the Summer Session shall normally include all designated portions of student society fees except as directed pursuant to the terms and conditions of a relevant referendum on the matter.

7. Election Guidelines: Proposed Revision in Interim Definition of Part-time/Full-time Undergraduate Student

The Chair informed members that the Chair of the Elections Committee had been unable to attend today because of absence from the country. However, the Report of the Elections Committee and the memorandum from the Chief Returning Officer were clear in explaining that the revision was required to permit a by-election this fall in the part-time undergraduate student constituency, which was due to the resignation of one of the student governors. Also, the Chief Returning Officer was present to respond to questions if members had any.

There were no questions on the report. However, a member expressed concern about what he perceived to be an inequity in the distribution of the undergraduate student seats. He was encouraged to attend the open meeting scheduled for October 3 to make his views known to the Elections Committee. The Election Guidelines 2004 will be brought to the next meeting of the Board.

On motion duly moved and seconded,

YOUR BOARD APPROVED

6. Election Guidelines: Proposed Revision in Interim Definition of Part-time/Full-time Undergraduate Student (cont'd)

THAT, for the purposes of the Fall 2003 by-elections for the Governing Council, the Election Guidelines 2003 be revised to reflect that the status of an undergraduate student as full-time or part-time will be the same as the definition used in the student's academic division.

7. Senior Assessor's Report

Professor Farrar's first report for this year had been distributed with the agenda. Invited to make additional comments, he began by saying that admission of the new cohort of students had gone smoothly. Students from the high schools had been under considerable pressure to get into university and seemed very happy to be here. Full-time direct-entry students had totalled 13,792, which was slightly over target.

Construction related to student services projects had gone well and occupancy permits for the residences had been received without delay. The Academic Resource Centre at the University of Toronto at Scarborough would be opening late; since space shortage there was the most critical, completion of this project was a top priority. He reported first-class facilities both in the Early Learning Centre and the day-care facility at 35 St. Charles Street and congratulated all who had worked so hard to ensure that these were available for September. Daycare spaces on campus had been doubled as a result of these two facilities.

Safety continued to be a high focus on campus. It was important for recruitment and retention to provide a safe environment for students and he was working with the crisis management team in this regard.

The Repository of Student Information (ROSI) had performed admirably over the summer and throughout registration, with further upgrades expected soon.

Professor Farrar reported that this year's welcome and orientation had been very successful. There had been effective coordination this year and feedback had been very positive. The "Getting There" manual had been distributed by Student Affairs. It appeared that students overall were more keen to use services and that was pleasing. All in all, it was encouraging to note that things had worked out very well and that media coverage was positive.

A member recalled the intention that the administration would take a closer look at the referendum policies across the University and wondered if any progress had been made. Professor Farrar indicated that this review was not yet underway, but that he hoped to bring a number of policies through the Board this year.

8. Annual Report: Special Committee on Barrier-Free Access

Professor Venter referred to his report that had been circulated with the Agenda and noted that there was a strong commitment across the University to advance barrier-free access. His report documented areas in which funds had been spent to improve accessibility; however, he stressed that much more had been done than was evident by the numbers

presented. Some of the successful initiatives did not have dollar amounts associated with them and, so, did not show up in this report. Others – such as the design of fume hoods in

9. Annual Report: Special Committee on Barrier-Free Access (cont'd)

the Lash Miller renovation – were integrated into the capital project and also were not included in this report.

Professor Venter acknowledged the tremendous contribution of the Students' Administrative Council Wheelchair Access Committee (SAC WAC). He cautioned that funding issues continued to be critical on a number of fronts. Within the large Capital Plan of \$750 million, every building was now designed to be fully accessible. Accessibility within the University was steadily progressing on a percentage basis as new construction continued. However, it remained a challenge to address older and heritage buildings. The Admissions and Awards Building was an example of a building that was not accessible and where the administration continued searching for an appropriate solution. Where solutions were very costly, choices had to be made. The Faculty of Nursing Building was such an example, where a decision had been made not to upgrade and rather to expend the funds on 155 College Street, to where the Faculty of Nursing would be moved shortly.

9. Ontarians with Disabilities Act Accessibility Plan, 2003-04

Members had had the opportunity to review “The University of Toronto *Ontarians with Disabilities Act* Accessibility Plan, 2003-04”. The Chair invited Professor Connie Guberman, on behalf of Professor Angela Hildyard, to comment briefly.

Professor Guberman, with the assistance of PowerPoint slides, reviewed the highlights of the Plan. She spoke particularly to its purpose and the context in which it had evolved, namely the commitment to equity and equity scholarship, the desire to build upon ongoing initiatives and the need to design a plan that would require no additional resources for implementation. The process, which had produced this plan, had been highly consultative and the outcome had been the development of annual and multi-year goals and the definition of a tool for evaluating annually whether the plan had met its objectives.

Professor Guberman went on to describe goals for 2003-04 and how it was expected that they would be achieved, building on existing initiatives, policies and practices. She closed by reviewing briefly what the longer-term issues might be.

A member commented that it would be interesting for members to be aware of when meetings were occurring so that they remain informed about how the implementation of the Plan was proceeding. A web site might also be useful. Professor Guberman took this under advisement.

A member suggested that it might be useful to have “how to” statements so that students, who often do not know where to go for help when accessibility-challenged by the University environment, could easily determine to whom they should speak about a concern.

A member recognized that meeting the goals of the Plan would be a continuing challenge. He had learned a great deal from the Report and complimented Ms. Guberman and others involved in the process for a remarkable achievement in getting this far. He also recognized that the Plan placed the responsibility for implementation on everyone.

10. *Ontarians with Disabilities Act Plan, 2003-04* (cont'd)

Professor Guberman in turn expressed her thanks to those in the room who had been integral to the process: Mahadeo Sukhai, Susan Addario, Margaret Hancock, Louis Charpentier and all others who had worked hard.

A member, speaking on behalf of the Graduate Students' Union, indicated that the GSU was very satisfied with the report. He believed this process, and the green paper academic planning exercise, had undergone the most consultative processes he had every experienced. He commended Professor Hildyard for her leadership.

ON MOTION DULY MOVED AND SECONDED, THE BOARD MOVED *IN CAMERA*.

10. Service Ancillaries Review Group (SARG) - Appointment of UAB Members

On motion duly moved and seconded,

YOUR BOARD APPROVED

THAT Ms. Lisa Aldridge, Mr. Jason Hunter and Ms. Karen Lewis be appointed as the University Affairs Board members to the Service Ancillaries Review Group (SARG) for 2003-04.

11. Council on Student Services – Appointment of Chair

On motion duly moved and seconded,

YOUR BOARD APPROVED

THAT Ms. Ranjini (Rini) Ghosh be appointed Chair of COSS, effective immediately and until June 30, 2004.

12. Appointment of the Striking Committee

On motion duly moved and seconded,

YOUR BOARD APPROVED

THAT the following be appointed as members of its Striking Committee for the 2003-04 year:

- Mr. Muhammad Basil Ahmad, Chair
- Dr. Robert M. Bennett (alumni)
- Dr. Shari Graham Fell (Lieutenant Governor in Council)
- Ms. Maggy Stepanian (administrative staff)
- Mr. Sean Mullin (student)
- Professor John Wedge (teaching staff)

ON MOTION DULY MOVED AND SECONDED, THE BOARD MOVED INTO OPEN SESSION

14. Other Business

There was no other business.

15. Next Meeting – Tuesday, October 28, 2003

The Chair reminded members that the next meeting of the Board was scheduled for Tuesday, October 28, 2003 at 5:00 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Secretary

Chair

October 16, 2003