



FOR RECOMMENDATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: Governing Council

SPONSOR: Meric Gertler, President
CONTACT INFO: president@utoronto.ca

PRESENTER: See sponsor
CONTACT INFO:

DATE: October 23 for October 30, 2014

AGENDA ITEM: 3 (a.)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Report of the University Ombudsperson for the period July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014, and Administrative Response.

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Section 5.1 of the Terms of Reference of the Office of the Ombudsperson state that the Ombudsperson shall make a written annual report to the Governing Council, and through it to the University community, as well as such other special reports as may be required from time to time by the Governing Council.

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. Executive Committee (October 22, 2014)
2. **Governing Council [For Information] (October 30, 2014)**

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

In 1994, the Executive Committee decided that Council should receive the Report and the administration's response simultaneously so that members of the Governing Council could comment on particular issues with full knowledge of both the Ombudsperson's and the administration's response.

The Governing Council received the Report of the University Ombudsperson (1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013, with the Administrative Response, at its meeting of October 30, 2013.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The report describes the way in which the Office has responded to requests for assistance from individual members of the University community, and brought issues of broader significance that it believes merit review to the attention of the relevant administrators. The report also includes a discussion of systemic issues that have engaged the Office in the past year, and puts forward one new recommendation concerning the way in which admissions decisions are communicated to applicants to graduate programs.

The Administrative Response affirms the Administration's satisfaction with the work of the Office of the Ombudsperson and makes a number of comments on the Report's observations, including in the area of mental health and the Student Code of Conduct. In this regard, and in response to the Report's invitation to provide further information, the Administrative Response provides clarification of the relevant legislative and policy sources that guide University processes in this area.

The Administrative Response accepts the Report's recommendation concerning communication of admissions decisions for graduate programs.

The Report and the Administrative Response are enclosed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

n/a

RECOMMENDATION:

n/a

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

Report of the University Ombudsperson for the Period 1 July, 2013 to 30 June, 2014

Administrative Response to the Report of the University Ombudsperson for the Period 1 July, 2013 to 30 June, 2014