

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

REPORT NUMBER 185 OF

THE UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS BOARD

February 3, 2015

To the Governing Council,
University of Toronto

Your Board reports that it met on Tuesday, February 3, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Simcoe Hall, with the following members present:

Mr. Andrew Szende, Chair
Ms Alexandra Harris, Vice-Chair
Ms Judy Goldring, Chair of the Governing Council
Professor Jill L. Matus, Vice-Provost, Students & First-Entry Divisions
Ms Lucy Fromowitz, Assistant Vice-President, Student Life
Ms Alexis Archbold
Mr. Marc Arnold
Ms Arlene Clement
Mr. Ben Coleman
Mr. David Reid Dobell
Ms Katie Dunlop
Ms Susan Froom
Ms. Sue Graham-Nutter, (Chair, Campus Affairs Committee, UTSC)
Professor Ira Jacobs
Dr. Joseph Leydon (Chair, Campus Affairs Committee, UTM)

Mr. Craig Maniscalco
Ms Yerusha Nuh
Ms Rita O'Brien
Mr. Anamjit Singh Sivia
Professor Elizabeth Smyth
Professor Salvatore M. Spadafora
Ms Cheryl Ziegler-Davison

Non-Voting Assessors:

Mr. Mark Overton, Dean of Student Affairs, University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM)
Ms Meredith Strong, Director, Office of the Vice-Provost, Students and Student Policy Advisor

Mr. Desmond Pouyat, Dean of Student Affairs, University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC)

Secretariat:

Mr. Patrick McNeill, Acting Secretary

Regrets:

Mr. Andrew Girgis
Mr. Gary D. Goldberg

Mr. Mark Henry Rowswell
Professor Janice Gross Stein

In Attendance:

Professor Donald Ainslie, Principal, University College
Ms. Anita Comella, Assistant Dean, Co-Curricular Physical Activity and Sport, KPE

Mr. Mike LeSage, Coordinator, Student Policy Initiatives, Office of the Vice-Provost, Students and First-Entry Programs
Professor Scott Mabury, Vice-President University Operations

In Attendance continued:

Mr. Garvin De Four, Assistant
Ombudsperson, Office of the University
Ombudsperson

Mr. David Newman, Director, Office of
Student Life

Janine Robb, Executive Director, Health and
Wellness

Ms. Shannon Howes, Manager, Student Policy
Initiatives & High Risk, Office of the Vice-
Provost, Students & First-Entry Divisions

ALL ITEMS ARE REPORTED FOR INFORMATION

1. Presentation: Landmark Committee Project Planning Report

Professors Mabury and Ainslie presented a report for information on the work of the Landmark Committee which was formed in response to the 2011 St. George Campus Master Plan to make recommendations for the revitalization of King's College Circle/Front Campus, Sir Daniel Wilson Quadrangle, Hart House Circle and the Back Campus/Tower Road.

Professor Ainslie provided some historical context noting that there were strong emotional ties of the entire tri-campus community to the space under review. The areas were framed by heritage buildings, monuments and pathways, and constituted the heart of the campus and provided important spaces of connection, gathering, and ceremony, and allowed for a variety of active and passive uses.

Professor Mabury described the themes that guided the Landmark Committee. These included the desire to make improvements to the pedestrian experience; the enhancement of green space; improved way-finding; the removal of approximately 400 parking spots from King's College Circle, Hart House Circle and vicinity; improved accessibility in its broadest definition; and the ability to create events that animate the campus.

Professor Mabury stated that the University would select a design group that had demonstrated design excellence on the world stage and had a track record and ability to undertake a deep and broad consultation process. Once a "Century Plan" was prepared and approved, a University fundraising initiative would commence; the VP Advancement had already started to explore opportunities.

In response to several questions by members regarding parking, Professor Mabury said that the University must abide by the City of Toronto Parking By-law and retain a minimum number (approximately 1,600) of parking spaces throughout the campus precinct. The removal of parking would present challenges; however, one of the charges to prospective consultants was to bring ideas forward to solve the parking issue. He added that parking was an ancillary service and as such must support itself. A business case would be developed to consider parking revenue issues.

One member asked what balance was being struck with this project compared to other University project needs, particularly deferred maintenance projects and related costs. Professor Mabury explained the current state of deferred maintenance at the University. He remained positive that the University could undertake the project while at the same time continue to address deferred maintenance.

The Chair thanked the speakers for their informative presentation.

2. Report: Student Experiences, Vice-Provost Students & First Entry Divisions

Professor Matus presented the results of the 2014 National Survey on Student Engagement (NSSE). The survey, which was now undertaken every three years, was used to measure the extent to which undergraduate students (both first year and senior year) engaged in effective educational practices that were empirically linked with learning as opposed to how “satisfied” they were. Almost 10,000 UofT students participated in the 2014 survey.

Professor Matus said that former benchmarks used since 2004 had been changed. The survey was now structured around four themes and utilized engagement indicators for each. The themes included: Academic Challenge; Learning with Peers; Experiences with Faculty; and Campus Environment. A series of graphs were presented detailing the results of UofT compared to the U15 group of Canadian peer universities. The Vice-Provost’s Office would make available a report version of NSSE and would provide more specific survey results to respective divisions, Colleges, etc.

Professor Matus stated that NSSE encourages universities to focus on attend to their progress over time. Though the new NSSE questionnaire limited our ability to do so, many questions were still very similar and progress over time could be measured, including the quality of relationships with peers and faculty, whether or not students participated, or intended to participate in study abroad or service-learning opportunities, and the accessibility and availability of faculty members outside of course time.

In terms of comparison groups, the University’s scores were higher than those of the U15 group on many of the indicators, including Higher-Order Learning, Discussions with Diverse Others, and Reflective & Integrative Learning. Experiences with Faculty was a noted as an area where U of T did very well compared to the U15. There was, however, room for improvement in other areas, including Collaborative Learning and Supportive Environment. The University continues to explore new ideas and develop frameworks to improve student engagement. Such initiatives include the first-year foundation programs, learning communities and increased service learning options, as well as the work of the Council on Student Experience, the Centre for Teaching Support & Innovation and many other institutional and campus/faculty/college level initiatives.

Professor Matus recognized Mr. David Newman, Director, Office of Student Life, and his team for the work associated with NSSE and the abundance of data made available for the University’s use.

3. Annual Report: Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees

The Chair noted that the annual report was an inventory of all compulsory non-academic incidental fees, as well as designated portions of those fees, that were approved by governance and collected by the University. In the first section of the report, fees were identified in each divisional table as a student service, University-wide student society, or divisional student society. Bar charts compared the total fees paid by students by division.

Professor Matus explained that this was an annual report provided to the Board for information in advance of its consideration for approval of the 2015-16 fees at its Cycle 4 meeting. The Campus Affairs Committees at both UTM and UTSC would also receive the report for information at their upcoming meetings.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly moved, seconded, and carried

YOUR BOARD APPROVED

THAT the consent agenda be adopted and the items approved.

4. Report of the Previous Meeting: Report Number 184, November 6, 2014

Report number 184, from the meeting of November 6, 2014, was approved.

5. Business Arising from the Report of the Previous Meeting

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

6. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 at 4:30 p.m.

The Chair informed members that the next meeting was scheduled for March 17, 2015 at 4:30 p.m.

7. Report of the Senior Assessor

Professor Matus provided an update on the implementation of the Mental Health Framework. The work of the Provostial Advisory Committee continued and, since its launch in November 2014, staff, faculty and students had been working collaboratively toward implementing the twenty-two recommendations contained in the framework. The framework was presented to the Board in November, 2014. She highlighted the following initiatives:

- development of a communication strategy including web-based enhancements;
- expansion of strength-base programming; and;
- creation of a new Student Mental Health Network.

The Health and Wellness team had been working on a detailed roll-out plan and had developed a consultation map. Approximately fifty community consultations would be held.

Professor Matus also reported on the following:

The *Advisory Committee to the President and Provost on Preventing and Responding to Sexual Violence* had held its first meeting. Nine students were represented on the Committee and its three Working Groups. The Committee would hold wide-scale consultation sessions and would invite submissions from students, as well as faculty and staff. The work of the Committee and Working Groups will focus on students, staff and faculty members of the University.

The *Advisory Search Committee for the Warden of Hart House* was struck and the position was posted on the University's job website and advertised broadly. She encouraged members of the Board to nominate candidates or encourage potential candidates to apply. Ms Rita O'Brien would be Acting Warden until the position was filled.

Meetings had begun with the student societies (APUS, GSU and SCSU) that did not participate in the Student Societies Summit regarding the principles and factors to consider with respect to a proposed policy on 'Open, Democratic and Accessible Operation of Student Organizations'. Consultations would continue with all student groups to include discussion on characteristics of open, accessible and democratic student organizations and factors to consider in the creation of an Appeals Panel. The proposed policy development was articulated in the Provostial response to the Summit Report. A consultation document had been prepared and a website would be developed to provide further information and a mechanism to submit feedback.

As part of the inter-campus transportation initiative, the pilot project for the operation of the U of T Scarborough Rocket (Route No.198) would be reviewed. The senior administration at UTSC was actively engaged with TTC to improve the service. The Inter-campus transportation Survey Report was available on line.

The University held its 3rd Student Communications Summit in January. The summit brought 137 members of the U of T community together to share best practices, participate in professional development, and work towards the common goal of improving student communications.

Professor Matus extended congratulations to those individuals and teams that had been recognized for their work on initiatives aimed at enhancing the student experience. Employees involved with the following initiatives received the "2014 Excellence through Innovation Award": Exam Jam, Co-Curricular Record, Pre U of T, Science Without Borders, Tri-Campus Career Learning Network and Flourish (UTSC).

8. Other Business

There were no matters of other business.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Acting Secretary

Chair

Wednesday February 4, 2015