



FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

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DATE: April 16 2015 for May 12, 2016

AGENDA ITEM: 1

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Report on the Review of Clinical Departments 2014-15

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

“The Committee...has general responsibility...for monitoring the quality of education and the research activities of the University....The Committee receives annual reports or such more frequent regular reports as it may determine, on matters within its purview, including reports on the ...[r]eviews of academic units and programs.”¹

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. **Committee on Academic Policy and Programs** [For Information] (May 12, 2015)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The Governing Council approved the *Policy for Approval and Review of Academic Programs and Units* in 2010. The *Policy* outlines University-wide principles for the approval of proposed new academic programs and review of existing programs and units.² Its goal is to align the University’s quality assurance processes with the Province’s Quality Assurance Framework through establishing the authority of the *University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process* (UTQAP), which outlines the process for reviewing academic programs and the units that offer them.

The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine commissions reviews of the Faculty’s clinical departments, modeled on but outside of the scope of the UTQAP review process, and prepares an annual report on their outcomes and implementation plans. Because of the unique contribution clinical departments make to the Faculty’s education programs, this report is brought forward for information to the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P). These reviews are intended to help assess and improve quality. The *Policy for Approval and Review of Academic Programs and Units* states that “...the quality of the scholarship of the faculty, and the degree to which that scholarship is brought to bear in teaching are the foundations of academic excellence. More generally, all of the factors that contribute to collegial and scholarly life —academic and administrative complement, research and scholarly activity, infrastructure, governance, etc.— bear on the quality of academic programs and the broad educational experience of students.”³

The annual Report on the Review of Clinical Departments was previously submitted to the AP&P on May 13, 2014.

HIGHLIGHTS:

One external review of a clinical department, the Department of Psychiatry, was commissioned by the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine in 2014-15. A table that summarizes the review outcome and decanal response/implementation plan is provided.

The overall assessment of the quality of the clinical Department of Psychiatry is very positive. The decanal administrative response/implementation plan addresses these issues and others.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are none.

RECOMMENDATION:

For Information.

¹ Committee on Academic Policy and Programs Terms of Reference, sections 3 and 4.9. <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Boards+and+Committees/Committee+on+Academic+Policy+and+Programs/apptor.pdf>

² http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/AcaProgs_Units_pdf.htm

³ *ibid.*

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

- Summary of Review of Clinical Departments 2014-15

Systematic reviews of Clinical Departments are a critical process of quality assurance accountability at the Faculty of Medicine. The external reviews are commissioned by the Office of the Dean and normally coincide with the end of the terms of Chairs; by extension, they inform the international search for, and reappointment of, Chairs. The review protocols include the terms of reference that identify key issues to be addressed, a self-study report by a wide range of contributors, a visit by a team of approved external reviewers that meets with a broad range of constituencies, the reviewers' report of findings, and the Chair's and Dean's responses. A summary is presented to Governing Council's Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) of Academic Board; the full report and the responses are submitted to the Executive Committee of Faculty Council.

2014-15 EXTERNAL REVIEW

CLINICAL DEPARTMENT	Dept. of Psychiatry
EXTERNAL REVIEWERS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof. Katharine Gillis – Chair, Dept. of Psychiatry, University of Ottawa 2. Prof. Jerrold Rosenbaum – Stanley Cobb Professor of Psychiatry and Head, Dept. of Psychiatry, Harvard Medical School
DATE OF REVIEW	September 22-23, 2014
STRENGTHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ The Department is “a substantial player among all academic departments internationally and dominant in Canada” ▫ The Department has a “culture of loyalty, support, transparency, and of outreach” ▫ Undergraduate Medical Education (UME) has made a “huge positive” contribution within the Department; leadership is “stellar” ▫ Postgraduate Medical Education (PGMS) trainees have flexibility in senior years; numerous “best teacher” nominees and awards ▫ “Enthusiastic endorsement” and “extremely positive” reviews by trainees at all levels of undergraduate and postgraduate education ▫ Favorable response (by faculty and senior leadership) to the Department’s reorganization and strategic plan (e.g., “divisions” and “pillars”) ▫ The Department has “responded well and has increased its capacity for medical student enrollment”
RECOMMENDATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ To create a task force addressing the need for more subspecialists in the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Division ▫ To increase collaboration and training “with key allied mental health personnel” (e.g., psychologists) ▫ To give “priority” to the expansion of the Department’s “basic science reach” ▫ To explore models for “greater integration” (e.g., concentrating on “philanthropy” between the Department and hospitals) ▫ To continue efforts “to catch up on promotions and gender gaps” ▫ To review “new training requirements for subspecialization” ▫ To promote “equity and transparency as much as possible between hospital sites for academic tasks”
DECANAL RESPONSE (recommendations)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ To continue to support “training capacity in child and adolescent psychiatry [...] as a top priority” ▫ To expand through further collaboration “the design, implementation, and evaluation of new models of care for improving outcomes in mental health and addiction” ▫ To build upon relationships with researchers across the Toronto Academic Health Science Network (TAHSN) toward investment “in new shared faculty recruits in priority areas of research” ▫ To strengthen philanthropic efforts through “[s]trategic partnership with cognate Departments, Centres, and Institutes” and continue “to build strong relationships with the affiliated hospitals/research institutes” ▫ To work to “recruit more graduates of the Faculty [...] into the Department’s residency training” ▫ To maintain ongoing contribution to the “continuing professional development of physicians in collaboration with other health professionals engaged in mental health care (e.g., clinical psychologists, family physicians)” ▫ To work “with the Dean on addressing any outstanding issues related to the conformity of the academic practice plans [and to] continue to advance academic promotions and other matters relevant to transparency and equity in the Department”