



TO: Academic Board

SPONSOR: Jane Gaskell, Dean
Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto

CONTACT INFO:

DATE: May 5, 2006

AGENDA ITEM: 7

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto: Constitution - Revised

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Section 5.2.2 of the Academic Board's terms of reference calls for new or revised divisional constitutions to be considered by the Board, and confirmed by the Executive Committee. Amendments to By-laws are approved by divisional councils.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The current Constitution of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto (OISE/UT), was approved by the Executive Committee on December 2, 2003. The revised constitution and membership were reviewed by the Faculty Council Executive Committee at a special meeting on March 6, 2006. This revised Constitution was approved by the OISE/UT Faculty Council on April 26, 2006.

The Report on Implementation of the Recommendations of the Graduate Education Task Force was presented to Academic Board for information on January 12, 2006.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The revised OISE/UT constitution is designed both to accommodate the new responsibilities and authority Faculty Council will inherit due to the reorganization of the School of Graduate Studies, and to address their internal governance issues. The proposed constitution is the collaborative work of the Committee on Governance and the Executive Committee of Faculty Council.

At its December 7, 2005 meeting, Faculty Council created a Committee on Governance to consider how to:

- a) best manage the devolution of graduate studies decisions from the School of Graduate Studies to the divisional level;
- b) create a more transparent governance process in the operations of Faculty Council;
- c) put in place a better process by which the OISE/UT community can engage in discussions and consensus building on issues and directions, prior to entering the decision making process.

Committee membership included representatives of all OISE/UT constituencies. The Committee, operating by consensus, drafted a new constitution based on the template provided to all divisions by the University. Briefly, the recommended constitutional changes are:

- Faculty Council is a smaller representative body, one that is better suited to increased decision making. All major constituency groups will have representative members. This includes tenure stream and teaching stream faculty who will no longer automatically be members of Council.
- While the size of Faculty Council is reduced, there is an expansion of membership on the standing committees, thereby increasing opportunities for participation.
- The Admissions, Awards and Programs Committee (AAP) are replaced by two new standing committees: the Graduate Education Committee and the Initial Teacher Education Committee.
- Details on the composition and procedures of standing committees have been moved out of the constitution proper to by-laws, as per best practice advised by the Office of Governing Council.
- The constitution makes provision for at least one town hall meeting of the whole each academic year. This body will provide an opportunity for all members of the OISE/UT community to have a voice on broader issues of concern within OISE/UT.

A copy of the current constitution of OISE/UT is available at
<http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/governance.html>

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS: N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Constitution of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto, approved by the Faculty Council on April 26, 2006, be approved.

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