



TO: **Academic Board**

SPONSOR: Cheryl Regehr, Dean, Faculty of Social Work

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DATE: December 13, 2006

AGENDA ITEM: 15

#### **ITEM IDENTIFICATION**

Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto: Revised Constitution

#### **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**

This revised Constitution of the Faculty of Social Work was approved by the Faculty of Social Work Council on December 5, 2006. This new document will replace a constitution originally approved in 1975 and revised in 1993 and 1997.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

The revised Faculty of Social Work Constitution accommodates the new responsibilities and authority transferred to the Faculty Council with the reorganization of the School of Graduate Studies most immediately the devolution of authority for graduate studies decisions to the Faculty Councils.

Highlights include:

- Chair of Council shall be elected by and from among the members of Council and is no longer the Dean.
- The Student Appeals Committee is no longer a Standing Committee of Faculty Council in order that the procedure for student appeals is consistent with SGS procedures.
- Procedures for the meetings are moved to the by-laws and are no longer found within the constitution.
- The quorum requirements have been slightly changed to be consistent with other divisions. Whereas the previous constitution required 60% of total membership to be in attendance for a quorum, this has been changed to 50%.

Please note that in the section defining voting members of Council, where "Teaching staff refers to those who hold an academic appointment of 50% or more", we include Full Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors, Senior Lecturers and Lecturers on permanent or CLTA contracts.

The proposed changes to the Constitution were brought forward to Faculty Council on October 17, 2006 at which time suggested changes were noted and the final draft was circulated two weeks prior to the December 5<sup>th</sup> Faculty Council Meeting. The revised constitution was passed unanimously on December 5, 2006

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

N/A

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

THAT the Constitution of the Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto, approved by the Faculty Council on December 5, 2006, be approved by the Academic Board.