



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

TO: Members of the Academic Board

SPONSOR: Louis Charpentier, Secretary of the Governing Council

CONTACT INFO: l.charpentier@utoronto.ca / 416-978-2118

DATE: April 3, 2012 for April 19, 2012

AGENDA ITEM: 1bii)

TITLE OF ITEM OF BUSINESS: Constitutional Amendments: Faculty of Information

ACTION:
For Approval

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Governing Council has the authority to establish faculty and college councils and to determine the composition, powers, and duties of those councils under the provisions of the *University of Toronto Act, 1971*, Section 2 (14)(i).

Section 5.2.2 of the Academic Board's terms of reference calls for amended 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:

On October 28, 2010, the Governing Council approved in principle the [Report of the Task Force on Governance](#) and the 32 recommendations outlined in the *Report*. Recommendation 15 provides for the re-distribution of and greater delegation of responsibilities. Specifically, the Task Force recommended that, as a guiding principle, transactional matters be delegated to either the lowest appropriate level within governance, or where appropriate, to the administration, with reporting back of decisions to a suitable level of governance.

An Implementation Committee, established by the Governing Council in October 2010 and led by then Vice-Chair Richard Nunn, was charged with overseeing and coordinating implementation of the Task Force's recommendations, ensuring appropriate participation among relevant bodies of governance, administrative offices and the Secretariat.

At the same time, and in line with the work of the Task Force on Governance, the University approved a new policy governing the Approval and Review of Academic Programs and Units

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PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN (cont'd)

(June 24, 2010) and developed the University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP) which was approved by the Ontario Universities Council on Quality Assurance on March 31, 2011. The UTQAP reflects the delegation to universities of an important degree of responsibility and authority over the quality of their academic programs. At the same time it provided a new definition of categories of academic change and envisaged the delegation to Faculty Councils of an important degree of authority and responsibility for that academic change.

Together, these two processes culminated in revisions to Board and Committee Terms of Reference and led to Governing Council approval in May 2011 of the re-alignment of responsibilities among the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs, the Planning and Budget Committee, the Academic Board and the divisional councils with respect to academic program review and approval.

In June, 2011, Principals and Deans were advised of the need for amendments to the constitutions of the academic divisions arising from changes to the approval processes for proposals for new academic programs and modification of existing programs. During the summer and early fall, 2011, representatives from the Office of the Governing Council and the Office of the Vice-President and Provost met with divisional representatives to discuss the required constitutional and related by-laws changes as well as the implications for divisional processes. Updated templates for divisional constitutions and by-laws were provided in order to enable greater consistency across the University, and divisional representatives were encouraged to draw freely from the templates when drafting revisions to their documents.

Amendments to the Faculty of Information's Constitution were previously approved by the Academic Board on January 11, 2007 and confirmed by the Executive Committee of the Governing Council on January 18, 2007.

In August 2011, the Chair and Secretary of Council met with representatives of the Offices of the Governing Council and Vice-President and Provost to examine the Faculty's existing Constitution and Bylaws and to determine the level of compliance with centrally-mandated policies that was required. Following that meeting, the Executive Committee of the Faculty discussed proposed changes in detail, and forwarded a recommendation for approval in principle to the Faculty Council. The Faculty Council considered an earlier draft of these changes and approved them in principle at its meeting of November 25, 2011. It then instructed the Chair and the Executive Committee of Council to rework the documents and consult further with central administration on how best to do so. Final approval within the Faculty was granted on March 8, 2012.

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HIGHLIGHTS:

All divisions were asked to incorporate into their constitutions provisions for the following powers and duties of Council and this was done in the case of the Faculty of Information.

- **Academic Programs**
 - Council’s responsibility for overseeing the content of academic programs and courses of study that lead to degrees, diplomas, certificates, credit and non-credit courses over which the Faculty has authority.
 - Council’s authority to recommend for approval to the appropriate body of Governing Council proposals for new academic programs.
 - Council’s delegated authority to approve proposals for major and minor modifications to existing academic programs. (Definitions of major modifications of existing programs, minor modifications, and new academic programs are provided in the *University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process* and are subject to change.)
 - Council’s delegated authority to approve proposals for the modification of existing diploma and certificate programs, pursuant to the University’s *Policy on Diploma and Certificate Programs*.
 - Numerous “clean-ups” were included as part of the review process.

- **Delegation of Authority**

Council’s ability to delegate its authority for the approval of minor modifications to academic programs to various committees. All such changes must be reported for information to Council.

- **Academic and Interdisciplinary Units**

Council’s responsibility to consider and recommend for approval to the Governing Council proposals concerning academic units and extra-departmental units, pursuant to the *Policy on Interdisciplinary Education and Research Planning*.

- **Review of Academic Programs and Units**

Council’s responsibility to consider and discuss a review report of an academic program and/or unit of the Faculty, consistent with the protocol outlined in the *University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process*.

- **Transcript Notations**

Council’s delegated authority to approve transcript notations within existing degree programs, in accordance with University policy. An annual report on such actions, as required by policy, must be provided for information to the appropriate body of Governing Council.

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Additional amendments to the Faculty of Information's constitution represent a re-organization and updating of the document in order to follow more closely the constitutional template provided by the Office of the Governing Council to all divisions. As well, the opportunity was taken to make simple housekeeping and editorial changes.

BUDGETARY/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

N/A

ACTION:

Be It Recommended

THAT, subject to confirmation by the Executive Committee, the amended Constitution of the Faculty of Information, which was approved by the Council of the Faculty of Information on March 8, 2012, be approved.