



TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

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AGENDA ITEM: 3

ITEM IDENTIFICATION: Grading Practices Policies

The consolidation and amendment of the existing grading practices policies and the approval of two new policies on transcripts and academic continuity that present, as distinct policy, content that has traditionally been part of the University's grading practices policy.

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs has the authority to recommend to the Academic Board for approval major amendments to University-wide policies with respect to grading practices and examinations (AP&P, Terms of Reference, 4.5 Examinations and grading practices)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The University Grading Practices Policy was approved by the Governing Council on March 25, 1993 and amended most recently by the Academic Board on April 9, 1998.

The Graduate Grading and Evaluation Practices Policy was approved by the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs on May 12, 2004.

An earlier version of the *Guidelines on Academic Transcript Notations* was originally brought forward for information to AP&P on April 5, 2011.

HIGHLIGHTS:

This is a proposal for the consolidation and amendment of the University's existing University Grading Practices Policy [UGPP] and the Graduate Grading Practices Policy [GGPP] which will be brought forward as a single proposed *University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy* that covers both undergraduate and graduate assessment and evaluation. At the same time,

content previously included in the two original grading practices policies that does not bear directly or exclusively on assessment and evaluation has been separated out and is being brought forward for approval as two separate policies, the first on transcripts and the second on academic continuity.

The process that has given rise to this suite of policies originated in the 2009-10 report by the University's Ombudsperson to Governing Council which raised concerns about the University's Grading Practices Policies. Specifically, the report drew attention to the problematic relationship between the current *University Grading Practices Policy* [UGPP] and the *Graduate Grading Practices Policy* [GGPP]. It called upon the Office of the Provost to review the matter.

As a consequence, a working group was established in the Office of the Provost tasked with reviewing, harmonizing, and updating the existing policies to reflect current practice. The existing policies cover three distinct issues: grading practices, transcript notations, and academic disruption. In the interest of greater clarity and simplicity, the Working Group decided that it would be best to create three distinct policies:

1. The University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy
2. The Transcript Policy
3. The Policy on Academic Continuity

The Working Group has consulted extensively with the community around the suite of policies. The initial drafts were subject to intensive discussion with the Dean's Offices of each faculty including Faculty Registrars and the School of Graduate Studies over a period of more than six months. The final drafts were then made publically available for feedback

- To members of AP&P
- To faculty through a Sept. 2011 memo to PDAD&C copied to the presidents of all student unions
- To the university community through a banner on the Library main page
- To students through student and family e-news letters

A number of departments and Faculty Councils added the draft policies to their agendas for discussion. The Working Group met to review the feedback received, resulting in the final policies being brought forward to governance now.

Appendix A to this document provides a detailed summary of the changes made to the grading practices policy. In addition, a slightly revised version of the Guidelines on Academic Transcript Notations, brought forward for information to AP&P on April 5, 2011, is being brought forward with these policies for reference.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS: There are no additional costs associated with the implementation of these policies.

RECOMMENDATION:

Be it recommended to the Academic Board:

THAT the proposed University Assessment and Grading Practices Policy, the proposed University of Toronto Transcript Policy and the proposed Policy on Academic Continuity be approved, effective the Academic year 2012-2013, replacing the University Grading Practices Policy approved by the Governing Council on March 25, 1993 and amended most recently by the Academic Board on April 9, 1998, and replacing the Graduate Grading and Evaluation Practices Policy approved by the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs on May 12, 2004.