



FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: Academic Board

SPONSOR: Professor Sioban Nelson, Vice-Provost, Academic Programs
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PRESENTER: Professor Liz Smyth, Chair, Committee on Academic Policy & Programs
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DATE: November 6 for November 13, 2014

AGENDA ITEM: 5(a)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Follow-up Report on Reviews: Ontario Institute for Studies in Education

- a) Department of Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning and its programs
- b) Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education and its programs
- c) Department of Social Justice Education and its programs

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) is the point of entry into governance for reports, summaries and administrative responses on the results of academic reviews of programs and units commissioned by academic administrators. The role of the Committee is to ensure that the reviews are conducted according to University policy and guidelines, an appropriate process is being used, adequate documentation is provided, consultations are undertaken, and issues identified in the review are addressed by the administration. Under the University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process, the Committee may request a one-year follow-up report when concerns are raised in an external review that require a longer period of response.

This report is forwarded, together with the record of the Committee's discussion, to the Agenda Committee of the Academic Board, which determines whether there are any issues of general academic significance warranting discussion at the Board level. The same documentation is sent to the Executive Committee and the Governing Council for information.

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. Committee on Academic Policy and Programs [for information] (October 28, 2014)
2. Agenda Committee [for information] (November 4, 2014)
3. **Academic Board [for information] (November 13, 2014)**
4. Executive Committee [for information] (December 1, 2014)
5. Governing Council [for information] (December 11, 2014)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

a) Department of Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning and its programs

The Department of Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning and its programs were reviewed on March 5-6, 2012, and the report of the external reviewers was taken to the October 29, 2012 meeting of the AP&P. Given the departmental restructuring process that OISE was undergoing at the time, the AP&P asked for a two-year (rather than a one-year) follow-up report regarding the proposed expansion of the Master of Teaching, Master of Education and flexible-time Doctor of Philosophy degree programs. As well, an update on program enrolment, quality issues, curriculum review, and faculty renewal plans was requested.

b) Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education and its programs

The Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education and its programs were reviewed on March 1-2, 2012, and the report of the external reviewers was also taken to the October 29, 2012 meeting of the AP&P. The AP&P requested a two-year follow-up report addressing the viability of the Master of Arts program, curricular coordination across multiple degrees and different areas, and major changes to program and departmental structure.

c) Department of Social Justice Education and its programs

The Department of Social Justice Education and its programs were reviewed on March 22-23, 2012. At the October 29, 2012 meeting, the AP&P requested a two-year follow-up report regarding the new curriculum model, student:faculty ratio in the thesis stream, faculty research, and the faculty renewal plan.

HIGHLIGHTS:

a) Department of Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning and its programs

Since the review of its four departments in 2012, OISE has received approval from the Provincial Government to focus exclusively on graduate-level teacher education, effective September, 2015. In addressing the requirements of the enhanced teacher education program, the Department of Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning has been reviewing and modifying the curriculum of the Master of Teaching (MT). The number of teaching subjects available in the MT program has been increased and a new research course has been added.

Plans are in place to increase the enrolment in OISE's professional master's programs and the Master of Education through concentrated recruitment efforts. Enrolment in the flex-time, doctoral programs will continue to be monitored and targets will be adjusted as needed. Building on OISE's more focused graduate recruitment strategy, the Department will develop a five-year recruitment and enrolment management strategy. As part of discussions about the MT program expansion, the Department's five-year faculty renewal plans were revisited, and two Assistant Professor positions have been filled, with a third search currently underway.

b) Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education and its programs

The new Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education (LHAE) offers three graduate programs – Adult Education and Community Development; Educational Administration; and Higher Education. A cross-departmental, collaborative review of program issues was undertaken through the Graduate Education Advisory Committee, and examination of programs and degree options will occur in 2014-15. As well, the Department's Curriculum Committee is in the process of reviewing its courses and programs with the goal of establishing a core sequential curriculum and longer-term course planning. Other steps taken to ensure collaboration across programs include the creation of a forum of key stakeholders designed to facilitate knowledge exchange of developments in research, policy, and practice; a planned Departmental retreat; and departmental meetings.

c) Department of Social Justice Education and its programs

Over the past few years, the Department of Social Justice Education has focused on developing a unified intellectual community and a new curricular model for its degree programs. Following approval of a sequential curriculum with an interdisciplinary core and different disciplinary foci, a compulsory foundational master's course was developed, and a corresponding doctoral course will be launched in the Winter 2015 term. Changes to the Department's comprehensive examinations procedures have been reviewed, and the student:faculty ratio in the thesis stream program is being addressed through faculty renewal planning and a review of workload policies. The Chair has been taking steps to provide support to individual faculty members as a means of strengthening the Department's research culture, and faculty research collaborations are continuing. Under the Chair's guidance, long-term, faculty renewal plans have evolved, incorporating program needs and faculty leaves and departures, and two new, tenure-track searches are currently underway.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

OISE Follow-Up Letter from Dean Julia O’Sullivan, September 29, 2014