



University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

**Appendix "F" of Report 134
of the Academic Board
(April 7, 2005)**

TO: Academic Board

SPONSOR: Vivek Goel
CONTACT INFO: provost@utoronto.ca

DATE: March 29, 2005

AGENDA ITEM: 9

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Faculty of Medicine: Name change of the Department of Occupational Therapy to be changed to the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy.

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Board has authority to approve name changes of academic units.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

HIGHLIGHTS:

The name change is an outcome of the strategic planning process within the Department to reflect the dual focus of research and teaching within the Department. The new name would better reflect the academic mission of the Department and would align the Department with the major departments in the United States. The University would also lead Canadian Universities in highlighting the importance of focusing on the science of occupation.

The name change was unanimously approved by the Council of the Faculty of Medicine at the meeting held on February 28, 2005.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

There are no new/additional financial resources required to implement the name change.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Academic Board approve:

THAT the Faculty of Medicine change the name of the Department of Occupational Therapy to the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE
University of Toronto

Office of the Dean

March 3, 2005

Dr. Vivek Goel
Vice-President and Provost
Room 225, Simcoe Hall
University of Toronto



Dear Dr. *Goel: Vivek*

This is to inform you that the Council of the Faculty of Medicine considered and unanimously approved the following motion at its meeting on February 28, 2005:

That the name of the Department of Occupational Therapy be changed to: the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy.

I enclose the documentation that the Council received and recommend the approval of these changes by the University.

Sincerely,

David Naylor, MD, DPhil, FRCPC
Dean
Faculty of Medicine

DN/sw
Encl.

Copy to: Prof. Helen Polatajko, Chair, Department of Occupational Therapy
Ms. Cristina Oke, Governing Council Secretariat ✓

Medical Sciences Building
One King's College Circle, Suite 2109
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A8

Phone (416) 978-6585 Fax (416) 978-1774

**GREAT MINDS FOR
A GREAT FUTURE**



FACULTY OF MEDICINE
University of Toronto
Department of Occupational Therapy

January 28, 2005

Dr. David Naylor
Dean
Faculty of Medicine
Medical Sciences Building, Room 2109
1 King's College Circle
University of Toronto
Toronto Ontario M5S 1A8

Dear Dean Naylor,

I am writing to ask your support to take our departmental name change forward for approval to the Faculty Council meeting on February 28.

As part of the strategic planning process undertaken in the early part of 2004, the Department of Occupational Therapy reaffirmed its vision and mission statements:

Vision

To achieve international leadership in research and education.

Mission

We are dedicated to graduating innovative professionals who are life-long learners and educators, essential contributors to health through occupation, and confident and competent scientist-practitioners who demonstrate skills in, and commitment to research.

We provide leadership in the understanding of human occupation and the development of evidence-based practices that enhance function and well-being.

Inherent in these statements is the Department's resolve to provide leadership not only in the area of occupational therapy but also occupational science.

As explained in the Departmental strategic plan, 'Occupation' has been identified as a core concept of the profession in Canada since the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists introduced the 1997 practice guidelines titled, '*Enabling occupation: an occupational therapy perspective*'. Internationally, with the initiation of the first program in occupational science at the University of Southern California (USC) in 1989, studies in occupation have gained increasing prominence, as evidenced by

- the introduction of the 'Journal of Occupational Science' in 1993
- the founding of the International Society of Occupational Scientists in 1999, and
- the founding of the Canadian Society of Occupational Scientists in 2001.

The Department already has a record of leadership in developing the disciplinary understanding of occupation by incorporating occupation as a key organizer of its curriculum; taking leading roles in theory development; contributing to the dissemination of our disciplinary knowledge through its website, workshops, continuing education opportunities, inter-professional/inter-disciplinary education, and co-hosting the second Canadian Symposium on Occupational Science (with the University of Western Ontario. Members of the Department edit the "*Sense of Doing*" Column in the national professional journal, *OTNow*, which informs clinicians of the links between occupational science and occupational therapy, and *OTJR: Occupation, Participation and Health*, an international peer-reviewed journal.

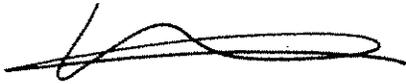
During the strategic planning process, faculty members reaffirmed their intention to "centre our science on occupation" and to develop doctoral level opportunities for specialization in occupational science. Accordingly, after careful consideration and thoughtful debate, the Department has decided that its name should reflect this dual focus. Therefore, we request that the Department name be changed to the **Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy**, effective July 1, 2005.

This new name would not only better reflect the academic mission of the Department, it would also align the Department with the major departments in the United States, e.g. the Department at USC, repeatedly the top-ranking department in the U.S. Further, the University of Toronto would lead Canadian Universities in declaring the focus on the science of occupation.

All members of the Department fully support this name change, as do the community members on our departmental committees. As well, the President of our Alumni Association, Mrs. Shaw, has provided her full support, as has Mrs. Bahen, a major benefactor.

We hope that we also have your support and ask that you take this departmental name change forward to Faculty Council for approval.

Sincerely,

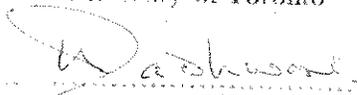


Helene Polatajko, Ph.D., OT Reg. (Ont.), OT(C), FCAOT
Professor and Chair



Susan Rappolt, Ph.D., OT Reg. (Ont.)
Associate Professor and Acting Chair

cc Sonia Wadhvani, Faculty Secretary, Faculty Council, Faculty of Medicine

<p>APPROVED By the Council of The Faculty of Medicine University of Toronto</p> <p> Faculty Secretary</p> <p>Feb. 28, 2005 Date</p>
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