



University of Toronto Governing Council Business Board

Government Advocacy Briefing Notes

General Points

1. Members of Governing Council and Business Board can play a significant role in helping the university convey its position to government at all levels (federal, provincial, municipal), and assistance in this regard is very welcome and encouraged.
2. The responsibility of the university administration in this regard includes:
 - developing an ongoing short list of key priorities
 - setting out the university position on each of these priorities
 - providing a strong succinct briefing note on each item offering perhaps 5 main points needed to make the case
 - updating the list and the briefing notes on a regular basis
 - being available for consultation or meetings
3. Members of Governing Council and Business Board offer a level of experience that generates opportunities to initiate and respond to government contacts on a range of issues helpful to the university. It is most helpful to the university when members:
 - understand the issues and believe in them as university priorities
 - support the agreed priorities of the university as determining the advocacy agenda
 - offer to the university their ability to open doors where access is otherwise difficult
 - take the initiative to ask questions, request a meeting, make a telephone call when an opportunity arises and more information or clarification is needed to take best advantage of the situation.

Sheldon H. Levy

June 12, 2003

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
BRIEFING NOTE: PRIORITIES FOR GOVERNMENT ADVOCACY

Date	September 8, 2003
Issue	Graduate Growth
Brief Description	<p>Major reasons why expansion at the graduate level is critically needed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ faculty supply and renewal - Graduate students are the next professors who will teach upcoming professional, business, and arts leaders; as well as teaching, laboratory and research assistants for unprecedented numbers of undergraduate students. Across Canada, demand due to demographic change and rising participation rates is expected to rise by 30% between 2001 and 2011. Over the same time period it is estimated that Canadian universities will need to hire 40,000 new faculty (10,000 to respond to additional enrolments, 20,000 retirement/departure replacements, and 10,000 research positions). ▪ double cohort graduates - Double cohort undergraduates will be seeking professional and graduate school opportunities in 3-4 years. Government responded to double cohort demand at the undergraduate level by planning to fund 40% increased enrolment by 2005, but there are no commensurate plans for growth at the graduate level. ▪ research – Leading researchers build and develop international competitiveness. Support for graduate expansion will help encourage top undergraduate students to do graduate study at “home,” reverse the brain drain by bringing back top students, attract international students, and recruit excellent faculty by recognizing that leading scholars and researchers seek opportunities to work with the best students ▪ rising employment qualifications – Since 1990 the number of jobs in Canada filled by graduate degree holders has increased by 66% nationally and 70% in Ontario. However, over the same time period Ontario has experienced a 46% shortfall, awarding 131,000 graduate degrees vs 245,000 jobs asking for graduate qualifications. ▪ low unemployment – Average unemployment for postgraduate degree holders is 3.7%, compared with over 5% for a bachelors degree, and nearly 25% for no postsecondary.
University Position	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The university will work with government to develop a funding formula that funds all eligible (and currently unfunded) graduate students; and funds growth at the graduate level commensurate with current undergraduate growth (Draft Academic Plan). ▪ The University of Toronto is in an excellent position to expand graduate programs and increase the number of graduate enrollments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Current graduate enrollment at U of T is 12,000 students (9,500 f-t and 2,500 p-t) ➢ U of T is the only university in the Ontario system with a 2:1 ratio, having 32% of the graduate students and 16% of the undergraduate students in the province ➢ U of T accounts for approximately 40% of the total PhD enrolments in Ontario ➢ Approximately 1 in 7 new faculty hired at Canadian universities completed a degree at some level at the U of T ▪ Moving forward would require: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ discussion and agreement with government on support for expansion ➢ consulting immediately with Faculties and Schools to increase graduate numbers ➢ a communications and recruitment program to convey key messages: more TAs/mentors at the undergraduate level, more spaces in graduate programs for double cohort graduates, faculty renewal, and excellence in research
Key Points and Main Messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The first and most critical step would be for the Government of Ontario to announce funding for graduate expansion at the same levels as undergraduate growth. ▪ Competitive levels of federal support for research must continue to be provided. ▪ Differentiation should be supported as a positive attribute. While our system has a “one size fits all” history of every university being all things to all people, in effect differentiation already exists, with universities known and sought for particular strengths. ▪ In terms of size alone, the U of T has a special responsibility in graduate education, as well as the infrastructure and faculty strength to respond. Government can take best advantage of existing conditions to build a graduate system focused on excellence.

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
BRIEFING NOTE: PRIORITIES FOR GOVERNMENT ADVOCACY**

Date	September 8, 2003
Issue	Restoring Funding
Brief Description	<p><i>Grants related to the double cohort</i></p> <p>June 17, 2002: Full average funding for growth (UofT accessibility fund 2002-03 = \$20M) March 27, 2003: Quality Assurance Fund (UofT share = \$14.6M) April 14, 2003: SuperBuild capital funding (U of T funded projects = \$55.5M)</p> <p><i>Funding Issues</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ontario ranks 10th out of 10 provinces in government funding for universities on a per student basis, as well as per capita and per \$1000 personal provincial income level ▪ In constant dollar terms, Ontario provincial operating grants per student decreased by 32.5% between 1987-88 and 2001-02 ▪ The 5-year government cap has limited tuition fee increases to 2% for several years; with 30% required to be set aside for student aid ▪ University inflation of 4% per year is required to cover costs that exceed the CPI average, but these expenditures are directly related to quality and scholarship ▪ OSAP assistance requires significant improvement to meet the needs of students
University Position	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The University will work with the provincial government to restore the level of operating grant per undergraduate student to the national average (Draft Academic Plan) ▪ Priority Government Relations Issues 2003-04: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ developing strategies with government to develop a combination of grants and fees that will cover inflation and begin to repair the per student funding level ➢ advocating OSAP reform ➢ making the case for fully funding expanded graduate enrolment ➢ working with government to partially fund the capital debt now being paid from the operating budget ➢ proposing ways of responding to public priorities in areas of U of T strength
Key Points and Main Messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We appreciate that government has provided: full average funding for double cohort expansion; four years of Quality Assurance Funds; and SuperBuild support. But this is just to help with current growth, and historical shortfalls need to be addressed. ▪ A university “shopping basket” costs more than the CPI average, including not only basic costs shared with everyone (heat, light, building maintenance), but unique costs: library materials, lab equipment, technology, and competitive salary costs for excellent faculty. ▪ The First Annual Report of the Task Force on Competitiveness, Productivity and Economic Progress (Nov. 2002) concluded that one major reason Ontario suffers from a “prosperity gap” lagging behind its U.S. peers (14th on a list of 16) is lower support for universities, particularly at graduate levels – and decline will continue unless redressed. ▪ We need a commitment from government to work toward a combination of grants and fees that will cover inflation and support quality in a sustainable long term way; and one important aspect is that we cannot mortgage funding by tying it up in capital debt ▪ OSAP needs to be updated. A university-sponsored study (June 2003) comparing the cost of living in Ontario with OSAP assessment and provision levels concluded that OSAP levels do not reflect actual costs or acknowledge the range associated with variable personal and family circumstances; and that there is a measurable and significant cost differential for students living in the GTA. ▪ Investing in the University of Toronto can have an immediate impact because of its size and established infrastructure. Areas of social priority (medicine, pharmacy, targeted research, many others) would be addressed quickly and effectively with the support needed to effect strategic change.

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
BRIEFING NOTE: PRIORITIES FOR GOVERNMENT ADVOCACY**

Date	September 8, 2003
Issue	Election Year 2003-04
Brief Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Imminent elections at all levels – provincial, municipal, federal will affect how the university conducts government relations ▪ In the provincial campaign, postsecondary education is not coming across as a particularly high profile election issue, especially compared with health and education at elementary and secondary levels -- a comparative summary of the platform positions taken by the 3 provincial parties is provided in the attached table
University Position	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A year of government change requires a nimble, proactive and responsive approach ▪ It will be critical to keep putting university issues on the table ▪ Strategies will obviously rely on the parties in power, the leaders, and the Ministers ▪ Emphasis and major priorities must continue to focus on increasing university resources and supporting quality ▪ As well, advocacy will try to begin to differentiate the University of Toronto on its strengths and the particular responsibilities commensurate with its size, location, discipline mix and research stature
Key Points and Main Messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Universities are a key player in fulfilling election promises for economic and social progress, especially in an increasingly knowledge-based and competitive society – the University of Toronto wants to help ▪ As the largest university in Toronto/Ontario/Canada, the University of Toronto takes very seriously its responsibility to help government achieve the public good and is open to discussions on the best ways to partner with government on priorities ▪ If you look at the priorities government has set – e.g. increasing medical enrolments, funding targeted areas of research, addressing social issues such as water safety and gridlock – with government support the University of Toronto can respond quickly and at a high level of quality that will bring credibility to results ▪ People generally think of traditional partnerships with the federal government on research, and the provincial government on accessibility (and, more recently, research as well) – but the university also wants active discussion on what we can achieve together at the municipal level, in Toronto/Scarborough/Mississauga ▪ At the end of the day, it is the University that trains the doctors, nurses, professors, teachers, scientists, economists, entrepreneurs, artists, and creative thinkers that will make a difference to our future not just at home but on a global scale – and demand continues to show that a university education has high value – so the investment is worth it and, in fact, we cannot afford not to support universities

**Summary of Election Platform References: Postsecondary Education
September 8, 2003**

Issue	Progressive Conservative Party “The Road Ahead” http://www.ontariopc.com/main_fr.asp	Liberal Party “Choose Change” http://www.ontarioliberal.on.ca/en/platform/	New Democratic Party: “publicpower: Practical Solutions for Ontario” http://www.publicpower.ca/our_platform/index.htm
Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • guarantee a place in a college or university program for every willing and qualified student in Ontario • ensuring accessibility with more than \$2.6 Billion in capital funding to create more than 135,000 new student spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • guarantee no double cohort student will be shut out • will expand post-secondary capacity by at least 10 percent over five years (50,000 students) • will invest in Northern colleges/universities, and not allow the geographic realities of Northern Ontario to get in the way of higher learning • will help Northern colleges/universities support satellite campuses and improve distance learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • publicpower means every qualified student should have access to job training and post-secondary education • expand on the successful Contact North by providing increased access to high speed and broadband internet access, supporting health care, providing distance learning opportunities and attracting new businesses
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide hospitals, school boards, colleges, universities and municipalities the certainty of their funding on a multi-year basis • new investments of up to \$300 million a year in the quality of education in colleges and universities, in addition to the nearly \$450 million in funding increases already given to support advanced education for Ontario students • more investment with greater accountability for results; will tie a greater share of funding to performance indicators 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will create a Faculty Recruitment Fund to help colleges and universities attract up to 800 of the world's best teaching minds • increasing graduate scholarships by 50 percent • will expand the powers of the Provincial Auditor to give access to the province's balance sheet when it comes to spending by hospitals, universities, school boards, the hydro companies and other major organizations funded by the people of Ontario 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reinvest to bring Ontario's funding to at least the national average
Fees (see also <i>Medical Spaces</i> below)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • careful balance between student assistance and student contribution has been a fair and reasonable compromise... university enrolment is at an all-time high, proof that the system is accessible to those who want to take part 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • immediately freeze college and university tuition for at least two years, and use the two-year freeze to work with students, colleges and universities to create a long-term solution • offer a Pre-paid Tuition Program to help parents save for their children's education, guaranteeing today's price for tomorrow's education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • immediately cut college and university tuition by 10 per cent and ensure no student is denied a quality education or training for financial reasons • deregulated tuitions at law, medical and business schools would be rolled back and re-regulated

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Medical Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will pay the tuition for medical students who agree to practise in under-served areas • will pay the tuition for medical students who agree to enter primary care family practice ANYWHERE in the province • will pay the tuition for nursing students who agree to practise in under-served areas • building Ontario's first medical school in 30 years (in Northern Ontario) to increase medical student enrolment • creating a new College of Traditional Chinese Medicine to help meet the demands of patients who use this alternative therapy – and will work with the College and health care professionals to determine what role alternative therapies should play in an integrated health care system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make medical tuition more affordable, with loan forgiveness to students choosing family medicine • creation of more nursing school spaces • increase medical school spots by 15% and increase the number of family medicine training spots to meet the need for more family doctors • expand initiatives to train medical professionals in under-served areas, including accelerating the development of the Northern Ontario Medical School/Windsor medical school satellite campus • will work with medical schools, universities and colleges to prepare new professionals to practise in family health teams • will work with colleges, universities, health care providers and seniors to ensure proper senior care is taught to all future health care providers • engage health experts to monitor and anticipate our need for health care professionals and work with colleges and universities to make sure those needs can be met 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attract and keep our health professionals by reducing medical tuition, creating more full-time nursing and nurse practitioner positions and creating more nurse-friendly environments • regulate and reduce medical school tuition to attract students who reflect the full income, geographic and ethnocultural diversity of Ontario • retain nurses by ensuring more support for on-going education, mentoring and clinical placements • provide medical students with more underserved area training and education on the many advantages of working on salary and with a multidisciplinary team of health professionals in Community Health Centres
Financial Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$400 million for the Ontario Student Opportunities Trust Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make the Ontario Student Assistance Plan work for more students by expanding eligibility and increasing loan amounts • tuition waivers for the neediest 10% of students, helping 16,000 students pursue higher education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implement new student assistance plan so students can look forward to a good job, not huge debt • implement a new student assistance plan that would help all who qualify, including up-front grant assistance and help for those receiving Ontario Disability Support Program or social assistance benefits or those who are part-time students
Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will invest \$1 billion to create an institute dedicated to finding a cure for prostate and breast cancer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure Ontario stays at the forefront of world innovation in agricultural research (Ontario ranks 1st in North America for post-graduate studies in Agri-Biotech, 2nd in agricultural R&D) by developing a new research strategy for Ontario agriculture, working with the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • better incentives for Northern Ontario-based companies to invest in badly needed research and development

		<p>newly created Ontario Agricultural Research Coalition to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • create a provincial research commercialization project to market university/private sector ideas 	
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expanding faculties of education (6,000 new spaces from 1999-2003) including recruitment in high demand areas like math, science, French • require that Early Years Centres include at least one manager with a university degree in ECE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will establish a College of Early Childhood Educators to set standards and help meet training needs of childcare providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work with early childhood educators to enhance training and professional standards
Apprenticeship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support for apprenticeship and skilled trades, including Apprenticeship Tax Credit for employers, Lifelong Learning Challenge Fund 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rapid Re-employment and Training Project for workers laid off and/or re-entering the workforce • double the number of apprentices over 5 years 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New School2Work Guarantee for 16-19-year-olds not in school, providing access to job placement, training, apprenticeship, or academic upgrading
Offshore institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • allowing internationally based schools to offer university programs and degrees in Ontario as long as standards are met, and encouraging them to locate in under-serviced areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • require public hearings for all major legislation -- drastic reforms to education, municipal government and social policy have been forced through the Legislature without public hearings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scrap plans to introduce private universities to Ontario ("tell McUniversities they're not welcome in Ontario")
Other		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • will market our post-secondary expertise to the world, especially in developing countries • will work with commercial/institutional customers, especially hospitals, schools, colleges and universities, to lower their electricity use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • targeted funding to provide public transit passes at 1/3 the full rate for college/university students, students in job training programs, and seniors • work with Northern Ontario's colleges to provide entrepreneurial and community economic development training