



TO: Academic Board

SPONSOR: Pekka Sinervo, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science

CONTACT INFO:

DATE: April 12, 2006

AGENDA ITEM: 6

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

Faculty of Arts and Science: Constitution - Revised

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

Section 5.2.2 of the Academic Board's terms of reference calls for new or revised 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:**

The current Constitution of the Faculty of Arts and Science was approved by the Executive Committee on February 3, 2003. This revised Constitution was approved by the Arts and Science Faculty Council and General Committee on April 3, 2006.

The Report on Implementation of the Recommendations of the Graduate Education Task Force was presented to Academic Board for information on January 12, 2006.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

In the fall of 2004, a Governance Task Force was struck by the General Committee of the Faculty of Arts and Science to review the current governance structures and procedures, to identify its strengths and weaknesses, and to make recommendations regarding how the Faculty could improve governance<sup>1</sup>.

After meeting numerous times over the next months, the Task Force presented its recommendations in a report on 21 June 2005. These recommendations were distributed widely within the Faculty and reviewed and commented upon by students and staff over an extended period of consultation. On 14 February 2006, a Town Hall meeting was held to hear any final concerns or suggestions with regards to the recommendations.

As a result of this consultative process, a revised constitution for the Faculty of Arts and Science was duly proposed and approved by the Faculty Council at its 3 April 2006 meeting. I am forwarding the proposed constitution for approval by Academic Board.

The proposed changes include the following:

- The Faculty Council and its General Committee be disbanded and replaced by a smaller group of predominantly elected members. Administrators would be non-voting members. The new body would be called the Arts and Science Council.
- The Committee on Academic Standards would be disbanded and its functions be taken over by the new Council.
- There be a referendum procedure if a sufficient number of Faculty members wished to bring

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/main/facultygovernance/archive>

forth matters to the new Council.

- The present Steering and Striking Committee be replaced by a smaller Agenda Committee, and the Agenda Committee be authorized to function as an Executive Committee when the Council cannot feasibly meet.
- As a result of the recommendations from the Task Force on Graduate Education, the by-laws provide for a graduate curriculum committee would be created as a sub-committee of the Council. This committee, known as the Three Campus Graduate Curriculum Committee (3CGC), will review and approve changes to existing doctoral-stream and St. George based professional graduate programs as well as proposals for new multi-campus and St. George graduate programs that involve Arts and Science graduate units. All decisions of the 3CGC, which will meet at minimum twice a year, will be reported to the Arts and Science Council for information.

A copy of the current constitution of the Faculty is available at  
<http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/ain/facultygovernance>.

**FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS: N/A**

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the Constitution of the Faculty of Arts and Science, approved by the Faculty Council and General Committee on April 3, 2006, be approved by the Academic Board and confirmed by the Executive Committee.