

ENROLMENT PROJECTION REPORT FOR 2005-06

1. Background

The current decade in Ontario has been characterized by significant increases in demand for university education due to the combined effects of demographic shifts, increased participation rates and changing work place requirements. The impact of these pressures has been exacerbated by the shift from a five-year to four-year high school curriculum, the brunt of which was felt in fall 2003.

In 1999, to prepare for increased demand, the University of Toronto released a *Discussion Paper on Expanding Enrolment* which framed the issues facing the University. Building upon this paper, a *Framework for Enrolment Expansion at the University of Toronto* was developed and approved by Governing Council in April 2000. The *Framework* document provided a policy structure which has informed the University's response to the opportunities and pressures for enrolment expansion over the past three years.

In July 2000, Ontario universities were asked by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) to submit institutional enrolment growth plans for the period 2001-02 through 2005-06. Submissions were made in September 2000 and revisions were requested in January 2001. Revised plans were submitted in 2001 to accommodate the increased demand (compared to original projections) by Ontario applicants in 2003-04 and 2004-05. In response to the Ministry's request, the revised submission also included projections for international student enrolments. The May 2001 Ontario Budget contained an announcement for full average operating grant funding for the projected enrolment increases through to 2003-04. The announcement provided for \$25.8M in 2001-02 increasing to \$200M in 2003-04.

In June 2001, the Provost struck a Working Group on Enrolment Expansion to guide the detailed planning associated with the expansion. The Working Group's efforts resulted in the report *Update on Enrolment Expansion, April 2002*. Guided by the *Framework for Enrolment Expansion* and building on earlier MTCU submissions, the *Update* called for Full-time Equivalent (FTE) growth, in steady state, of 6,907 at the undergraduate level and 1,374 at the graduate level. Most of this increase was planned for the University of Toronto at Mississauga and the University of Toronto at Scarborough, with total growth on the St. George campus limited to 3,313.

The University's expansion plans incorporated enrolment changes from various sources:

- program re-structuring;
- growth encouraged by special provincial funding envelopes;
- changes proposed in *Raising Our Sights* plans which could now be funded from the (MTCU) enrolment expansion operating grant;
- growth in direct entry programs to meet increased demand; and
- increases in doctoral stream programs to maintain enrolment balance among the different levels of study.

In June 2002, Governing Council approved the enrolment expansion and the principles for allocating resources for expansion as outlined in the report. In August, MTCU asked all universities to sign an Enrolment Target Agreement (ETA). The ETA defined enrolment targets in terms of undergraduate enrolments (intake and total) eligible for operating grant funding.

A revised enrolment expansion plan, *Update on Enrolment Expansion, December 2002*, reflected the University's 2002-03 ETA. The major revisions from the April update were a steady state increase in Arts and Science enrolment on all campuses of 3,551 and an increase of 500 doctoral stream enrolments. The undergraduate increase was in response to MTCU's upward revision of student demand projections. Discussions with MTCU on graduate student funding, the need for additional teaching assistants to help accommodate larger numbers of direct entry students, and the need to both replace retiring professors and expand the professoriate underlay the upward revision in doctoral stream enrolments. As a result, steady state growth targets were revised to 10,714 undergraduates and 1,874 graduates, for a total increase of 12,588. Of this, 4,899 would occur on the St. George campus. Governing Council approved the revised expansion plan in April 2003.

The University's 2003-04 ETA was finalized in May 2003. It incorporated the flow-through of actual 2002-03 intakes and projected increases in fall 2003 intakes. The increases were in response to MTCU's desire to accommodate a strong demand signaled by a 47% increase in Ontario secondary school applicants for first year places in fall 2003 over fall 2002. As reported to the Planning and Budget Committee on February 3rd, 2004, the estimated-actual 2003-04 ETA enrolment expressed in Basic Income Units (BIUs) was less than 1% below its target. The University received full operating grant funding for its incremental undergraduate growth in 2003-04.

Enrolment targets for 2004-05, were established which were fully in concordance with previously approved plans. As reported to the Planning and Budget Committee on January 25, 2005, the University's total Fall/Winter undergraduate enrolment for 2004-05 in BIU eligible programs is just 80 FTE (.2%) below target. MTCU has signaled that final funding agreements will not be signed with Ontario Universities until actual enrolment growth is tabulated.

2. Planned Enrolments for 2005-06

No significant changes to planned enrolments are planned for 2005-06. Some adjustments have been made to the intake targets and the international/domestic mix in Arts & Science divisions following on the recommendations of the Dean of Arts and Science and the Principals of UTM and UTSc. Table 1 gives projected full-time enrolments by Intake/Year 1 students, upper year and special students and total part-time enrolments. Table 2 provides a comparison of projected full-time, part-time and FTE enrolments with actual 2004-05 levels.

Undergraduate Direct Entry

Preliminary data from the Ontario University Application Centre indicates that the number of secondary school applicants applying for a place in the Ontario University system has increased slightly (2.5%) over 2004-05. For the University of Toronto, the increase is a similar level (2.6%). Analysis from the Council of Ontario Universities suggests that this increase is the result of an increase in the participation rate of the 18-24 year old cohort and that the 2005-06 level of approximately 73,000 applicants reflects the “new normal” in applicant demand from secondary school applicants after the double cohort.

UTM and UTSc have set their intake targets to be about the same as actual intake level in 2004-05. This represents a reduction of 152 FT students for UTSc and 273 for UTM over what was previously planned. St.George’s intake level has been maintained at the planned level as a reduction of 152 FT students over the 2004-05 actual level. Increases in the number of international students have been incorporated into the intake targets for all three divisions and the overall mix of domestic and international students has been adjusted accordingly.

Total FTE enrolment at St.George is planned to decline slightly over last year’s level by 155 FTEs. Growth in total FTE enrolment is planned for UTM (266 FTE) and UTSc (500 FTE) as a result of the flow-through of higher levels of intake since 2002-03.

The growth of 116 FTEs in Applied Science and Engineering reflects the flow-through of elevated intake in 2003. Physical Education and Health is slated to increase overall by 10 FTEs and Music by 18 due to flow-through of higher intake levels since 2002-03.

Second Entry Undergraduate

The Radiation Science program is planning a small increase of 4 FTEs. Intake in BSc Pharmacy program will reach its steady-state intake target of 240 FTE in 2005-06. This represents an overall increase of 49 FTEs over previous year levels.

Enrolment plans in the MD, BScN and BEd programs are governed by agreements with MTCU that cover enrolment levels and funding from special envelopes. Post-graduate Medicine totals are set at a rolling three year average of actual experience. Law and DDS enrolments are stable with minor variations due to flow through of actual enrolments.

Graduate Programs

Overall professional masters programs are planned to grow in 2005-06 over previous years levels. The MScOT and MScPT in the Faculty of Medicine are still ramping up to planned steady-state levels. Growth in the MN program is covered by an agreement with MTCU to fund increases under a special funding envelope.

The FTE growth of 294 in doctoral stream programs reflects the growth plan in this category included in the enrolment expansion plan, *Update on Enrolment Expansion, December 2002*. The projected growth in Arts and Science on all three campuses is a result of the availability of supervisory capacity and the need for additional teaching

assistants. The planned reduction in OISE/UT graduate enrolments reflects an earlier decision to lower the PhD intake to 85 per annum beginning 2003-04.

It should be noted that the University has advocated the need to significantly increase graduate enrolment to accommodate the demand for places stemming from the double cohort students and meet the societal need for highly qualified personnel. However, increasing graduate enrolment beyond the projections for 2005-06 has been put on hold because of the cap on grant funding of graduate students that is currently in place.

3. Proposed ETA for 2005-06

It should be noted that to date the Ontario Government has not indicated its commitment to funding enrolment growth for 2005-06 and beyond. It is expected that further details will be provided following the spring 2005 Ontario Budget.