



TO: **Planning and Budget Committee**

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AGENDA ITEM: 4

ITEM IDENTIFICATION

Framework for Graduate Expansion 2004-5 to 2009-10.

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION

The Committee is responsible for policy on planning. Specific areas in which recommendations are made to the Academic Board include enrolment plans and policies. The Committee is responsible for monitoring planning activities.

OTHER ACTION TAKEN

A preliminary proposal for graduate expansion was approved by Governing Council in May, 2006.

HIGHLIGHTS

In May, 2000, Governing Council Approved a document entitled "*Framework for Enrolment Expansion at the University of Toronto*," which guided the enrolment growth that has taken place over the past five years. The Framework called for a substantial increase in the number of undergraduate students and for a proportionate increase in graduate enrolment. The undergraduate enrolment targets set in that document have been achieved. Although significant increases in graduate enrolment have taken place, they have not kept pace with undergraduate growth because of lack of government funding. The resulting changes in student mix are described in Section 3 of the document, under Capacity for Expansion.

On November 1, 2005, a discussion paper on graduate enrolment planning was presented to this committee.¹ That paper provided a detailed background on graduate enrolment at the University and comparative statistics from peer institutions.

Graduate education is a distinctive feature of the University of Toronto and is a defining part of our vision. Graduate students are the lifeblood of research in the University and an essential component in linking research and teaching. *Stepping Up*, which is the guiding document for academic planning at the University of Toronto from 2004 to 2010, points to the centrality of discovery and research to the University's mission and the importance of the role that graduate students play. Maintaining a balance between graduate and undergraduate enrolments is also important because of the many and mutually beneficial interactions between the two groups, from teaching experience for graduate students to research opportunities for undergraduate students.

¹ Graduate Enrolment Planning 2005-15 Discussion Paper
<http://www.utoronto.ca/govcncl/bac/details/pb/2005-06/pba20051101-5a.pdf>

HIGHLIGHTS (cont'd)

The attached Framework has benefited from the extensive discussion and consultations that have taken place over the past year, as described in the document. Consistent with the aspirations and academic plans of graduate units across the University, it proposes increases in graduate enrolment to be implemented in two phases. In the first phase, graduate enrolment would be increased by 2330 FTEs by 2007-08, relative to enrolment in 2004-05. In the second phase, enrolment would be increased by an additional 2140 FTEs, for a total increase of 4470 FTEs over enrolment in 2004-05. However, both the magnitude and timeline for this second phase are contingent on the availability of government funding.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Both operating grant funding and capital funding by the government are assured for the first phase of the proposed expansion. In 2007-08, the University of Toronto will receive funding for up to 2140 additional student FTEs (890 Ph.D. and 1250 Masters) above enrolments in 2004-05. This is the estimated eligible portion of the full expansion target of 2330 in 2007-08, which would provide an operating grant of about \$39.4M. The associated capital funding, assuming these targets are met, is a "notional" \$96.7M. The Government refers to capital funding as "notional" because it will be provided in the form of a stream of payments over 20 years whose present value at 6.5% interest is equal to the notional amount.

The Ontario budget of 2005 has also provided funding for the second phase; however, the Government's plans and allocations to individual universities for that phase have not yet been announced.

Financial planning is currently underway, both centrally and in the divisions, to increase the funds available for graduate student support. Expenditures on capital will be part of the University's overall capital planning, which will take graduate expansion into account. Capital projects will be considered and approved in accordance with the Policy on Capital Planning and Capital Projects.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Be It Recommended to Academic Board:

THAT the proposed graduate expansion as described in *Framework for Graduate Expansion 2004-05 to 2009-10* be recommended to Governing Council for approval.