Governing Council, April 16, 2009

Remarks from the President

These remarks were outlined for the April 16th meeting, but deferred by the President at the request of the Chair given the heavy agenda. They are circulated for Governors' reference.

Awards and Honours

Per usual, I would like to draw Governors' attention to the extraordinary list of faculty, student and staff awards and honours accompanying their agenda packages. It is a truly outstanding collection again. I would highlight two awards from the list that illustrate the excellence of our faculty and students:

First, Professor and Governor Sarita Verma is the co-winner of the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada's 2009 May Cohen Gender Equity Award. This award recognizes outstanding achievements in improving the gender equity environment in Medicine in Canada.

Second, Ryan Hili, a PhD student in chemistry is this year's recipient of the Boehringer Ingelheim Award of Excellence in Organic or Bio-organic Chemistry – for his innovative work on amino aldehydes.

Congratulations to all of those recognized.

TVO Best Lecturer

I have been updating Governors on the progress of our faculty members in this year's TVO Best Lecturer competition. The prize this year goes to Canadore College's Rod Carley, to whom we send collegial congratulations. I fear our strong representation in the finals may have led to vote-splitting among the U of T supporters! I want to extend the University's warmest congratulations to the four finalists from U of T – more than from any other school – who represented us with tremendous skill and grace:

Professor Shawn Lehman, Department of Anthropology, St. George Campus
Professor Paul Stevens, Department of English, St. George Campus
Professor Clare Hasenkampf, Department of Biological Sciences, UTSC
Professor Doug Richards, Faculty of Physical Education and Health

Congratulations and thank you for your many wonderful contributions to undergraduate education.

India

Between March 6th and March 13th, I travelled to Mumbai, Bangalore, and Delhi, as part of a three-person delegation that included VP UR Judith Wolfson, and AVP International Relations, Lorna Jean Edmonds. Dr Edmonds had done an excellent job setting up a productive itinerary. I am also appreciative of the help we received from Prof. Karan Singh of the Department of Computer Science, who was on leave in Delhi at the time of our visit.

Planning for the trip began almost a year earlier, and I have to say the economic downturn gave us pause about proceeding. However, the University's relative absence from India was a concern that needed to be

addressed given both India's strategic importance in higher education and research, and the evident federal and provincial interest in India.

A brief list of the activities follows:

Mumbai

- Visits with leaders of Tata Computational Research Laboratory, India Institute of Technology – Bombay, and the Tata Institute for Fundamental Research
- Reception for alumni and prospective students

Bangalore

- Visits with leaders of India Institute of Science, International Institute of Information Technology – Bangalore, and Infosys Inc..
- Meeting with research leaders for Proctor and Gamble, the Jack Welch Laboratories, GE India, and HP Labs, India
- Meeting with director of the Association of Biotechnology-Led Enterprises
- Reception for alumni and prospective students

Delhi

- Evening with the High Commissioner, Mr Joseph Caron and his senior staff
- Round table with academic, industry and government leaders on innovation in India
- Co-hosted symposium on "Accelerating Innovation" with leading non-profit think-tank, the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations
- Remarks at a round table on "Cardiovascular Disease Control Strategies for India" organized by the St. Michael's Hospital/U of T Centre for Global Health Research and World Health Organization
- Keynote at the 11th International Conference on Technology Policy and Innovation
- Meeting with research leaders at Tata Consulting Services (Information technology)
- Meeting with the Secretary (Deputy Minister) of Science and Technology and senior staff

This was a very productive start in rebuilding our partnerships with a remarkable nation that has emerged as a global force in the last decade. Our connections with India are natural, based on shared traditions of democracy, pluralism and multiculturalism, and the British Commonwealth. We have much more to do in India, but the trip was productive, and is already paying off in positive partnerships that should benefit both faculty and students in the years ahead. A story on the visit from the Education Times of India is appended to this report.

Provincial Budget

Returning closer to home, I would like to make a few observations on the nature of the Provincial budget. This Budget marked the McGuinty Government's response to the Crash of 2008, and contained a number of stimulus measures. The Government sent clear signals of an intent to support Ontario's' shift towards a more innovative, high-value, green-tech / clean-tech economy.

Among the specific announcements for post-secondary education (PSE):

- As part of $27.5B infrastructure program, $780M of funding for universities and colleges over the next two years, matched by federal funds through the Knowledge Infrastructure Program
- $150M one-time operating relief for Universities and Colleges
- 100 new medical school spots -- $35M in capital and operating funds
- $10M in graduate fellowship funding

There were also major investments in Research and Innovation, some of which will have direct and indirect benefits for the PSE sector.

These included:

- $300M over six years for research infrastructure funding to match federal CFI support
- $100M over four years in operating funds for biomedical research, with a particular focus on genomics, along with $5M for the Ontario Genomics Institute
- $250M over five years for a new Emerging Technologies Fund. This fund will provide matching start-up capital to new companies working in clean tech, life sciences, digital media, and ICT
- $50M for an Innovation Demonstration Fund and $50M for a smart electricity grid, both targeting alternative energy in Ontario, and $5M for a Skills Strategy tied to Green Jobs

We should be under no illusions about the fact that the higher education system is still facing major financial pressures. Quality-enhancement funding has largely disappeared from the equation. The funding we received is one-time or bridge funding, and there is a growing problem of unfunded undergraduates in the system, associated with pro-rating or discounting of the per-student grants for all undergraduates across Ontario.

That said, it was very gratifying to see the Government of Ontario coming forward with these investments in Post-Secondary Education and in research and innovation, notwithstanding the current fiscal crisis. The relevant Ministers, the Premier, and the entire Cabinet deserve kudos for seeking to protect their priority agenda in research, innovation and education as they have – despite dwindling revenues.

Special Message to the University Community

Finally, I should mention my recently distributed Special Message to the University Community on the budget, the pension, and the University's endowed funds. A copy was placed at each Governor's seat and also available at the door of the Governing Council chambers.

Thank you.

UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

People who do not break things first will never learn to create anything - *Philippine Proverb*

COULD YOU CHARGE YOUR CELL PHONE WITH YOUR SHIRT?

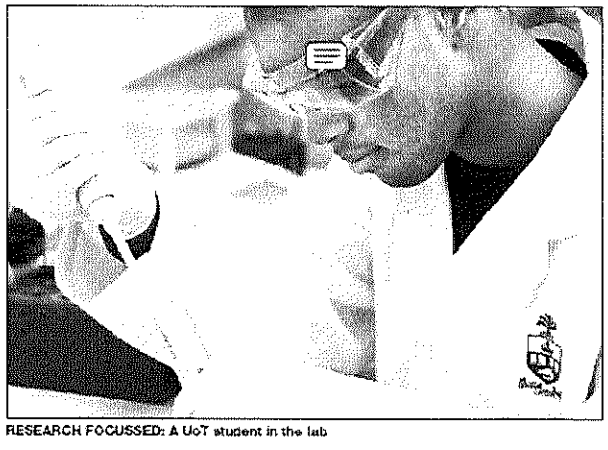
PERHAPS YOU COULD, IF RESEARCH BEING DONE ON 'SPRAY-ON POWER' AT CANADA'S UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO (UoT) WIELDS RESULTS. WITH THIS AND MORE, RESEARCH IS AT THE HEART OF UoT, WRITES ASHWAMEGH BANERJEE


David Naylor

BEING the birthplace of insulin and stem cell research, among others, the University of Toronto (UoT) in Canada has a long-standing relationship with research. Little surprise, then, that it enjoys the highest share of annual research funding for any Canadian university. "Today our faculty and students publish more research than their counterparts at any other university in the world, except Harvard and Tokyo," says David Naylor, president, UoT. In fact, he adds, "Tokyo is either just ahead of us, or slightly behind, depending on which analysis you believe."

The total research at UoT, including the three campuses and 10 partner hospitals, is on the order of $1 billion per annum, when one combines external funding, internal endowed funds for professorial chairs and research centres, and annual giving from philanthropists. The core external funding can be estimated at about $850 million. But, does receiving grants/funds from the industry adversely affect the 'direction' of the research being done at the university? "Not really," says Naylor, adding, "Industry is not the major source of our research funding overall. Although we have the highest total amount of funding from industry among Canadian universities, overall less than 1 in 10 dollars comes from industry. Nonetheless, we have good safeguards for academic freedom and standardised contracts for working with industry." He states, also, that the economic crisis has so far not affected these funds in a major way.

Elaborating further on the research environment at UoT, Naylor says, "Toronto has benefited over many decades from great faculty and excellent students. We lead in most Canadian research fields, and recruit a significant number of scholars and scientists from other nations. The breadth and depth of research at UoT definitely enables exciting inter-disciplinary and international collaboration."


RESEARCH FOCUSSED: A UoT student in the lab

Naylor was in India on a week-long visit that took him to Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore. His focus was on biotechnology and health, environmental sustainability, information technology and nanotechnology — areas in which UoT enjoys an international reputation for excellence. He elaborates, "Today India is quite possibly the world's most dynamic country. It has a huge talent base, with rapidly developing centres of excellence in both academic and industrial research. And as Canada's top research institution, UoT must be active in building partnerships with Indian universities and industries."

Naylor was 'impressed' by the level of science at centres such as IIT-Bombay, IISc, and the Tata Institute for Fundamental Research (TIFR). He adds, "On the industry side, I was struck also by the quality of the people at the Indian Council of Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) and Tata Consulting Services in Delhi, and at HP Labs, Infosys, and GE's Jack Welch Technology Centre in Bangalore."

When asked about what's new at UoT, Naylor says, "There are a great many changes afoot. In the last few years, we have opened three new degree-granting schools — Public Health, Public Policy and Governance, and International Affairs. We have also added new graduate programmes, to what is already Canada's largest set of options for students wanting to do Master's or Doctoral degrees." He further adds that the university has recently completed a major planning exercise "aiming for big changes by 2030," a report on which can be found at *www.towards2030.utoronto.ca*.