



17 January 2011

Professor Cheryl Regehr  
Vice-Provost, Academic Programs  
Office of the Vice-President and Provost  
University of Toronto

Dear Cheryl,

Thank you for your letter of 10 December 2010, requesting a one-year follow-up report to the 4 January 2010 external review of the UTSC Department of Humanities. Your letter asks for information on three areas: structural changes, curriculum and academic planning, and morale and leadership in the department. In general, I can report that excellent progress has been made with respect to the creation of two additional departments. Curriculum review is progressing well, though at a somewhat slower pace than originally planned; and academic planning is on track with the ongoing UT Scarborough academic planning process. Morale in the newly constituted Department of Humanities has improved considerably. The Department of Humanities remains in a transitional state, and I anticipate greater clarity regarding the future of the department to emerge in the coming academic year as we begin the search for a new Chair of the department. More specifically, I can report:

- *Structural changes:*  
We moved quickly during the 2010 Winter term to achieve the long-held goal among faculty in the key disciplines of English and Philosophy to become their own departments. I am delighted to report that as of 1 July 2011 the new Departments of English and Philosophy were established, each with the Chair appointed for a full-term. Morale in both departments is buoyant and they have engaged with energy and enthusiasm in the academic planning process. I have high expectations for these departments and have no doubt that they will be met. Current leadership at the secondary level is also strong. The faculty research strength and their commitment to undergraduate and graduate education are of a very high caliber.
- *Curriculum Planning*  
We have heard repeatedly from recent external reviewers who have visited our campus, including the reviewers of the Department of Humanities, that insufficient information had been provided to them to enable a thorough review of programs, despite the fact that we have been compliant with UofT regulations and guidelines. With this in mind, in the Fall term we decided that the Acting Vice-Dean Undergraduate should focus on the UTSC 2010-11 curriculum submission, which would provide an opportunity to engage closely with the new UTQAP process. With this understanding, we are revising the package of material for the review of programs in English, Humanities, and Philosophy. For example, we will be including the syllabi for each course in a program -- something that reviewers have asked for.

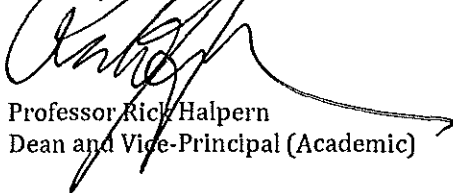
This term the Vice-Dean has worked with the three Chairs to collect the additional material and to identify the names of potential reviewers. We expect to have finalized the reviewers and mailed packages to them by the end of January, and we plan to have the reviews completed by the end of this academic year. There will be seven reviews, with separate reviews for the English and Philosophy programs and programs in the Humanities bundled as follows: French programs; History programs; Linguistics programs; Women and Gender Studies programs; and Visual and Performing Arts programs, including Art History, Arts Management, Music, Studio, and Theatre and Performance studies.

- Academic planning*  
 UTSC is in the midst of an academic planning process. In 2008 each department submitted an academic plan that outlined the vision for the department and identified possible new directions and initiatives. This year, departments have been working on detailed, staged implementation plans that will chart the pathway for achieving their visions. The Departments of English and Philosophy have been working hard to refine their departmental vision and develop implementation plans. The drafts they submitted last Fall were impressive, and I have every confidence that final versions will be submitted by the campus deadline in February 2011. The Department of Humanities has also been working on its plan, but progress has been slow as it grapples with ongoing challenges, particularly finding a compelling vision around which the department can coalesce.
- Morale and leadership in the department*  
 I can report that morale has improved significantly in the Department of Humanities and that the colleagues in the unit are actively engaged with the challenges they face. Unlike English and Philosophy that have focused on building new organizational structures from *tabulae rasae*, the Department of Humanities has been grappling both with the loss of two disciplines that formed major structural columns for the department and with the need to develop a new vision and central organizing theme for the department. The complexity of this multi-disciplinary department is increased further by its resident arts and events programming units – the Doris McCarthy Gallery connected to the studio and curatorial programs, the Leigha Lee Browne Theatre connected to the drama program and the Arts and Events Programming unit that supports a variety of visual and performing arts programs. Each of these units also has an ambitious campus-wide cultural mandate. The department remains in a transitional state and it is not yet clear that the current structure ultimately will be the form within which things settle.

Leadership of the Department also is transitional. During the 2010 Winter term, I undertook a search for the chair of the Department, following the end of Professor William Bowen's term. There was very strong support for Professor Bowen to continue in this role and his term was renewed for two years. In the 2011-12 academic year, I will initiate a search for the new chair. I anticipate that this process, coincident with the current academic planning process, may result in further changes, possibly including further fission.

Overall, it is clear that remarkable progress has been made in many areas. The traumatic experiences of a year ago have resulted in very positive changes that have placed all humanities disciplines on a stronger footing. While some work still remains, we are motivated and dedicated to finding solutions that will ensure each department is in a strong position to uphold our University's commitment "to being an internationally significant research university, with undergraduate, graduate and professional programs of excellent quality."

Sincerely,



Professor Rick Halpern  
 Dean and Vice-Principal (Academic)