



**FOR INFORMATION**

**PUBLIC**

**OPEN SESSION**

**TO:** Governing Council

**SPONSOR:** Professor Cheryl Regehr, Vice-President and Provost  
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**PRESENTER:** See above.  
**CONTACT INFO:**

**DATE:** October 23, 2014 for October 30, 2014

**AGENDA ITEM:** 5

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

*Student Societies Summit Report - Administrative Response*

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Governing Council receives reports from the senior administration of the University as requested.

**GOVERNANCE PATH:**

1. Executive Committee for briefing (October 22, 2014)
2. **Governing Council (October 30, 2014)**

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

The *Report on the University of Toronto Student Societies Summit* was received by the Provost's Office on April 14, 2014, and discussed at a meeting of Governing Council on May 22, 2014. At the Governing Council meeting on September 11, 2014, the Provost stated that she would bring forward an administrative response to governors in Fall 2014. Further background information is available in the Reports of the June 2013 meetings of the Executive Committee<sup>1</sup> and the Governing Council<sup>2</sup>.

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<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Boards+and+Committees/Executive+Committee/2012-2013+Academic+Year/r0617.pdf>

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<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Boards+and+Committees/Governing+Council/2013-2014+Academic+Year/r0627.pdf>

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

The Provost's Office has analyzed the Report and the recommendations and submits the attached administrative response, which contains an assessment of the *Report* and some related policy options and implications. The two significant recommendations envisage a staged process with the first occurring expeditiously and the second taking a longer-term approach:

- 1) That new processes (supported by a new Policy) be articulated with regard to student societies and principles of open, accessible and democratic operation. A process for review or appeal, such as an "Appeals Board" that has representation from both students and the University must also be considered. Such an Appeals Board could be structured in a way that preserves the autonomy of student societies but makes them more accountable to their own members and objectively inspires confidence in their operations.

Extensive consultation on the draft policy will take place with various groups and individuals to ensure a good understanding of issues, principles, and solutions.

- 2) That further analysis and consultation occur with respect to the development of a policy dealing with the recognition, restructuring and evolution of student societies. Such a policy should take into consideration the future scope of representation for broadly based student societies, for example, a St. George campus first-entry undergraduate grouping.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

n/a

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

For information.

## **DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:**

*Report on the University of Toronto Student Societies Summit* (April 14, 2014)

Administrative Response to the *Report of the University of Toronto Student Societies Summit* (October, 2014)