



TO: Executive Committee

SPONSOR: Rose M. Patten, Chair of the Governing Council

DATE: March 7, 2006 for meeting of March 9, 2006

AGENDA ITEM: 2

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Committee to Review the Office of the University Ombudsperson

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The term of the current University Ombudsperson, Ms Mary Ward, comes to an end on June 30, 2006. Ms Ward, who was first appointed in July 1998, is completing her second term and is eligible for re-appointment. Under the *Terms of Reference for the Office of the Ombudsperson* (2001), a review of the Office is required prior to the end of the incumbent's term, in a manner to be determined by the Executive Committee of the Governing Council. The mandate described below is intended to define the broad parameters for the review.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The last major review of the Office of the Ombudsperson occurred in the spring of 2001. A mid-term review focusing on administrative and operational processes was carried out in early 2004.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The mandate of the Committee will be twofold: to conduct a review of the Office of the Ombudsperson and to make a recommendation regarding the appointment of an Ombudsperson.

(a) Review

The Committee will be asked to:

- review the *Terms of Reference for the Office of the Ombudsperson* and, taking into account experience of the past five years and assessing the changing institutional context within which the Office of the Ombudsperson operates, consider whether any revisions are required;
- review the effectiveness of the Office's operations; and
- recommend directions and priorities for the Office of the Ombudsperson for the next five years.

In conducting its work, the Committee will be expected to consult as appropriate.

(b) Search

The Committee will also be asked to make a recommendation to the President for transmission to the Governing Council on the appointment of an Ombudsperson, effective July 1, 2006. The Committee is expected to submit its report by May 31, 2006.

(c) Membership of the Committee

Chaired by Mr. John F. (Jack) Petch, Vice-Chair of the Governing Council, the review will be conducted by a committee of governors consisting of a representative from each of the estates of the Governing Council:

- Mr. Brian Davis (administrative staff),
- Ms Susan Eng (alumni),
- Dr. Claude Davis (Lieutenant Governor-in-Council appointees),
- Professor Ian McDonald (teaching staff),
- Mr. Mahadeo Sukhai (graduate students), and
- Mr. Husain Aboghodieh (undergraduate students).

The administrative assessor to the Committee will be Professor Angela Hildyard, and Mr. Neil Dobbs, Deputy Secretary of the Governing Council, will serve as Secretary.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

n/a

RECOMMENDATION:

Be It Resolved

THAT the mandate and the membership of the Committee to Review the Office of the University Ombudsperson as outlined above be approved.