



TO: Governing Council

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DATE: February 7, 2011 for February 17, 2011

AGENDA ITEM: 8

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Performance Indicators for Governance (2010)

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Terms of Reference for the Executive Committee state that the Committee reviews and reports to the Governing Council on the discharge of the Council's accountability requirements, including but not limited to the annual Performance Indicators report.

The Governing Council receives the annual Performance Indicators Report for information.

In 1994, the Governing Council approved in principle a recommendation of the Broadhurst Task Force on Ontario University Accountability that standard institutional performance measures should be approved by governing boards and reported on in a consistent manner.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

In 1997, the Governing Council formally approved a list of institutional performance indicators relating to central dimensions of the University's mission and which, to the extent possible, allow for a comparison of performance against that of other universities. Annual reports are required, and this is the fourteenth annual report.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The University of Toronto educates more students and makes more discoveries than any other university in Canada. It is recognized as one of the foremost research-intensive universities in the world. The size and complexity of the institution leads to greater opportunities for our students and faculty, but also to greater challenges than faced by many of our Canadian peers. U of T can proudly claim international eminence in an impressive number of academic disciplines. At the same time, our size requires that we find creative ways to provide quality facilities and to ensure that every member of our community feels connected to campus life.

The Performance Indicators for Governance report measures our progress towards long-term goals in a range of teaching and research areas. It is our central accountability report to governance, and is designed to serve members of the wider community who wish to know more about the University's operations, achievements and challenges. An annual report has been presented to Governing Council since 1998. The indicators included have changed over the years as we have expanded the scope of areas that we have sought to measure and have enhanced our data collection and partnerships with other institutions that allow for external benchmarking. A total of seventy measures span a range of teaching and research areas—thirty-five of which have been included in the appended summary document.

This year's report introduces some new or expanded indicators including:

- a broader range of the University's international ranking results;
- a consolidated measure of U of T's tri-council funding;
- an expansion of the instructional engagement measure to two additional faculties;
- focus group results regarding student engagement;
- an additional year of graduate student survey results; and,
- measures of service-learning opportunities for our students.

The 2010 report provides highlights of our recent performance in some of these areas.

The major notable findings include:

- The University's scholars remain the most distinguished in Canada, as reflected by prestigious international and national awards received.
- U of T is consistently ranked among the top institutions in the world across a number of international rankings. U of T's consistent strength across all disciplines clearly distinguishes it from its Canadian peers.
- The University has maintained its "market share" of federal research funding from the granting councils.
- The need for improved academic infrastructure continues to grow, though some relief is expected when new buildings and renovations funded by the Knowledge Infrastructure Program open in 2011. Similarly, U of T's deferred maintenance backlog remains a challenge.
- The University's student recruitment efforts have been highly effective at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. The demand for professional master's and doctoral program places continues to grow.
- The University of Toronto welcomes proportionally more students from lower income households, and devotes more of its operating budget to bursaries and scholarships, than the average of other Ontario universities.
- A large majority of our most distinguished faculty (Canada Research Chairs, Endowed Chairs, and University Professors) are actively engaged in undergraduate teaching.
- In response to student survey results, the University is making efforts to improve communication with students and to enrich learning opportunities.
- The number of commitments and gifts that the University received from alumni and friends grew substantially this year.
- Despite challenging economic circumstances, the University has maintained its solid credit rating and remains financially sound.

A comprehensive inventory of our performance measures can be found online.

See <http://www.utoronto.ca/about-uoft/measuring-our-performance/performance-indicators-main.htm>.

In addition to this report, the University has published a number of other detailed accountability reports and makes available a large amount of annual performance-related data. This information includes: the Multi-year Accountability Agreement and annual Report-Backs to the Government of Ontario, the Common University Data Ontario (CUDO), the National Survey on Student Engagement (NSSE) Report, and the Canadian Graduate and Professional Student Survey (CGPSS) Report.

See <http://www.utoronto.ca/about-uoft/measuring-our-performance.htm>

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS: N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.