



FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: Agenda Committee

SPONSOR: Sioban Nelson, Vice Provost, Academic Programs
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PRESENTER: See above
CONTACT INFO:

DATE: October 28, 2015 for November 3, 2015

AGENDA ITEM: 1(a.)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Follow-up Report on Reviews: Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology and its programs (Faculty of Medicine)

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) is the point of entry into governance for reports, summaries and administrative responses on the results of reviews of academic programs and units commissioned by academic administrators. The role of the Committee is to ensure that the reviews are conducted in accordance with University policy and guidelines, that an appropriate process has been followed, that adequate documentation is provided and consultations undertaken, and that issues identified in the review are addressed by the administration. Under the University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process, the AP&P may request a one-year follow-up report when concerns are raised in an external review that require a longer period of response.

This report is forwarded, together with the record of the Committee's discussion, to the Agenda Committee of the Academic Board, which determines whether there are any issues of general academic significance warranting discussion at the Board level. The same documentation is also sent to the Executive Committee and Governing Council for information.

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. Committee on Academic Policy and Programs [for information] (October 27, 2015)
2. **Agenda Committee [for information] (November 3, 2015)**
3. Academic Board [for information] (November 19, 2015)
4. Executive Committee of the Governing Council [for information] (December 7, 2015)
5. Governing Council [for information] (December 15, 2015)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

At its meeting on October 28, 2014, the AP&P considered the September 2013 review of the Faculty of Medicine’s Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology (LMP) and its programs, along with the decanal response. Following discussion, the AP&P asked for a one-year follow-up report outlining steps taken to respond to changes in the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) funding model.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- a) *Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology and its programs (Faculty of Medicine)*

Since the 2013 review, LMP made a number of changes in anticipation of new CIHR mechanisms, including diversifying its research funding base; increasing internal grant review; collaborating with the Faculty of Medicine’s Office of the Vice-Dean Research and Innovation and other cognate units; and increasing online visibility.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

For Information.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

- Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology (Faculty of Medicine), Follow-up Letter from Dean L. Trevor Young, August 25, 2015.



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MEDICINE

L. Trevor Young, MD PhD FRCPC

Dean

Vice-Provost, Relations with Health Care Institutions

August 25, 2015

Professor Sioban Nelson, PhD
Vice-Provost, Academic Programs
University of Toronto
Simcoe Hall, Room 225
27 Kings College Circle
Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A1

Dear Sioban,

This report is in response to a request for a 1-year follow-up report to the September, 2013 external review of the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology (LMP) and its programs, and the administrative response of January, 2014. More specifically, on October 28, 2014 AP&P indicated that it would be helpful to receive a follow-up report from the Dean outlining steps taken by the Program to respond to changes in the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) funding model. The response below includes comments from the Chair of LMP, Professor Rick Hegele.

Since the external review in 2013, LMP has instituted a number of measures in anticipation of new funding mechanisms being developed and implemented by the CIHR. These include the following:

1. *Obtaining funding under the previous CIHR open operating grant competition structure—*
This strategy has been largely successful as multiple LMP campus-based faculty have been successful in obtaining new 3-5 year operating grants before transition to the new CIHR Foundation/Project Scheme. The use of internal grant review prior to final submission has had increasing uptake in the Department.
2. *Pursuing alternative sources of funding within CIHR—*
For example, in the spring of 2015 LMP investigators were successful in the CIHR Proof of Principle (“POP”) Phase I and Phase II competitions, and NSERC/CIHR Collaborative Health Research Projects.
3. *Pursuing other Tri-Council funding—*
For example, an LMP investigator had a successful NSERC Discovery Grant application in the spring of 2015.
4. *Applications to charitable foundations—*
In the spring of 2015, LMP investigators were successful in obtaining operating grant funding from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, Crohn’s and Colitis Canada, and Prostate Cancer Canada.

5. *Applications to local funding—*

In the spring of 2015, LMP investigators were successful in obtaining funding from the Academic Health Science Centre Alternative Funding Plan Innovation Fund, Accelerator Grants from the McLaughlin Centre and from the Mt. Sinai-UHN Academic Medical Organization Innovation Fund.

6. *Working with the Faculty's Office of the Vice Dean, Research and Innovation to find research funding sources from foundations that do not advertise widely, if at all—*

LMP is also working with research leadership in the Faculty of Medicine to understand lessons learned from the first CIHR Foundation Scheme, in which LMP had one junior investigator whose application was ranked very highly in Round 1 (#4 nationally) but did not succeed beyond Round 2.

7. *LMP website—*

Through our enhanced website and placement on Google search engines, LMP was approached by an automobile body painting company (Colorworks) to do fundraising for cancer research in November of 2014, with funds raised directed to campus-based faculty.

8. *Catalyzing new research collaborations—*

To encourage in-depth discussion, Professor Michelle Bendeck, LMP Research Director, organized two Thematic Research Days (Cardiovascular Science; Neuroscience) bringing together diverse faculty from the University of Toronto to present their work. These have led to new research collaborations, which otherwise would have not likely occurred.

In summary, LMP has worked to diversify its research funding base (including “non-traditional” sources of funding), increased its use of internal grant review, taken advantage of resources available from the Faculty's research office, promoted new collaborations through the introduction of Thematic Research Days, and increased departmental visibility over the internet.

Sincerely,



L. Trevor Young, MD, PhD, FRCPC
Dean, Faculty of Medicine
Vice-Provost, Relations with Health Care Institutions

cc: Allan Kaplan, Vice-Dean, Graduate and Academic Affairs, Faculty of Medicine
Daniella Mallinick, Acting Director, Academic Programs, Planning and Quality Assurance, Office of the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs
Anastasia Meletopoulos, Academic Affairs Specialist, Faculty of Medicine