

# Draft Vision

- Initial draft distributed to the UTM community on Sep 26, 2016.
- Two feedback sessions held on Oct 17 and Nov 22, 2016
- Six focus group sessions completed, two for faculty, two for staff and two for students.
- Detailed, written feedback received from approximately 15 groups and individuals

# Draft Vision

## Key Themes:

- Communication, Community and Creativity (along with Equity and Diversity)
- Campus-wide communication initiatives
- Sustainability addressed according to UTM needs
- Increasing engagement of the wider community in Mississauga, showcasing events, research, diversity and the indigenous heritage at UTM



## Mission

The University of Toronto is an internationally significant research university, with undergraduate, graduate and professional programs of excellent quality.

As an integral element of the broader University of Toronto system, the University of Toronto Mississauga will be a transformative agent, championing the teaching, creation and implementation of knowledge in service of the local community in the City of Mississauga, in the Region of Peel and to the benefit of people in Ontario, Canada and, ultimately, the world.

## Vision

The University of Toronto Mississauga aspires to be a premier academic institution with exceptional educational opportunities that conducts research of international distinction and provides leadership as an essential partner in the success of our community.

The principles that underlie our vision include:

1. Well-educated students, with depth and breadth of knowledge, are critical to all aspects of Canadian society. UTM will strive towards an outstanding educational environment for our students, to facilitate learning and accomplishment, both in the classroom and in the broader community.
2. Bringing together the best scholars from around the world to address problems of global significance is essential to an internationally acclaimed research institution. UTM is committed to diversity in scholarship and supporting its faculty to engage in world-class research that bridges disciplines allowing national and international partnerships to flourish.
3. Knowledge and education are powerful forces that can be utilized to improve the well-being of communities. UTM will increase and strengthen its outreach and partnerships with local, municipal, regional, provincial, government and non-governmental organizations and agencies to the betterment of knowledge in service of the community.

## Identity

Implementing a vision for UTM also involves creating a shared identity. The UTM identity comprises:

### A campus that embraces its **Community**

- The history and growth of UTM and the City of Mississauga are intimately connected. The relationship represents a brilliant example of the mutual benefit received by city-hosts and their universities. UTM is an institution that both reflects the hopes and aspirations of its community and is a key city-building institution in its own right

### Faculty, staff and students who lead through **Innovation**

- Represented by programs that comprise the Institute of Management & Innovation, and is also woven through scholarly research as well as the creative pedagogy that UTM embraces. Examples of initiatives under consideration include a new minor in Business for Science Majors, a new Centre for Medicinal Chemistry, a computer science research cluster, and a graduate program in Management of Urban Innovation.

### An institution that values **Sustainability**

- Most obviously illustrated by universal delight in the natural beauty of the campus, our desire to enhance and understand our local ecology (as evidenced by UTM's philosophy of Grow Smart, Grow Green (<http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/green/>) and our initiatives in the area of sustainability management. Beyond that, we commit to using sustainability as a lens to inform our research themes and foci.

### A scholarly community that prioritizes **Communication**

- This area of strength stems from our teaching strong communication abilities in all disciplines and programs that enable students to develop into more capable and confident communicators. We build on the excellence of many departments and programs such as those in the Institute of Communication, Culture, Information and Technology, Visual Studies, Theatre, Drama and Performance Studies, BioMedical Communications and Writing Initiatives. We recognize that communication is a theme of common interest that stimulates opportunities for innovative cross-disciplinary initiatives.

### A campus that places **Equity and Diversity** at the forefront

- We recognize the vital role that a commitment to equity and diversity plays at UTM and embrace this as a core value that we plan to implement across the curriculum. UTM interprets these terms broadly and inclusively to create an accessible and intellectually creative space for all of our stakeholders. We can build on initiatives as envisioned by Department of Visual Studies and the Blackwood Gallery, a new (embryonic) initiative in the area of Indigenous Studies, among others.

## Possible Directions

These examples are included as suggestions of particular strategies or programmatic investments that UTM might implement once we have agreed upon a vision for the campus.

### Research and Scholarship

- Investing in the Digital Humanities. A recent example from English involves using medieval manuscript scholarship to enrich the art and experience of interactive games through image sharing to pull digital images of real medieval manuscripts into a game environment.
- A Computer Science, Mathematics and Statistics Research Cluster in the area of data science (and/or cybersecurity); a Chemistry, Biology and Computer Science research centre; a Centre for Urban Environmental Studies; an Institute for Healthy Communities research group
- A Business Minor for Science Majors (and eventually other students) program

### Sustainability

- A course offering with a focus in sustainability in every department and/or a general course in sustainability that is open to all students
- A department focused on conservation and sustainability that includes an MA in Conservation and a PhD in Sustainability and Conservation

### Communication

- Writing and communication instruction for all students in year 1
- Communication requirements embedded throughout all four years of all programs
- An Academic Certificate in Communication (as is available in from Engineering)

### Health and health related studies

- Developing cross-disciplinary undergraduate programming (in and out of the classroom) that emphasizes community health, i.e. social, economic, environmental, and cultural health that permits individuals to function in their communities
- A new campus-based PhD in interdisciplinary life sciences
- New undergraduate program in medical sciences

### Equity and Diversity

- An Indigenous Studies minor
- Inclusive public art projects/investments that celebrate the diversity of UTM and the broader community
- Expanded and more inclusive continuing educational programming

## Investing in the community

- A Community Engagement Storefront to allow community groups to engage with faculty and students to identify research questions important to stakeholders. The goal is to enable research design, implementation and execution of research projects brought forward by community members
- Expansion of language opportunities, such as the French and English (Learn to Lead) Summer camps that bring high school students to the campus, provide training opportunities for our students and build community relationship.
- Creating a community centre that contains research facilities, meeting rooms, a museum space and a theatre (for town hall gatherings, large lectures and concerts as well as theatrical productions)
- A Field House developed in cooperation with the City of Mississauga and local sports associations/teams
- Developing a contemporary public art program that includes permanent and temporary exhibitions

DRAFT