



FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: Academic Board

SPONSOR: Sioban Nelson, Vice Provost, Academic Programs
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PRESENTER: See above
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DATE: November 7 for November 23, 2017

AGENDA ITEM: 7

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Follow-up Reports on Reviews:

- a) Department of East Asian Studies and its programs (Faculty of Arts and Science)
- b) Ethics, Society and Law undergraduate program (Faculty of Arts and Science)
- c) Faculty of Forestry and its programs (Faculty of Forestry)
- d) Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (Ontario Institute for Studies in Education)
- e) Health Studies undergraduate program (University of Toronto Scarborough)

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] (November 2, 2017)
2. Agenda Committee of the Academic Board [for information] (November 14, 2017)
- 3. Academic Board [for information] (November 23, 2017)**
4. Executive Committee of the Governing Council [for information] (December 5, 2017)
5. Governing Council [for information] (December 14, 2017)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

At its meeting on November 1, 2016, AP&P considered the following reviews:

- a) The January 2016 review of the Department of East Asian Studies and its programs (Faculty of Arts and Science), as well as the October 3, 2016 decanal response. AP&P requested a one-year follow-up report addressing the progress on the financial health of the Department and alternative approaches to pedagogy.
- b) The January 2016 review of the Ethics, Society and Law undergraduate program (Faculty of Arts and Science) in addition to its October 3, 2016 decanal response. AP&P requested a follow-up report from the Dean in one year to focus on the broad issue of long-term sustainability of the program given its interdisciplinary nature and staffing mix, and on its support for sessional instructors.
- c) The May 2016 review of the Faculty of Forestry and its programs, together with the October 6, 2016 decanal response. AP&P requested a follow-up report in one year from the Deans of Forestry and the Faculty of Arts and Science to address issues related to the undergraduate programs offerings, the nexus between the Faculty of Forestry and the Faculty of Arts and Science, and progress on faculty hires.
- d) The January 2016 review of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), along with its October 3, 2016 decanal response. At that time, AP&P requested a follow-up report in one year from the Dean regarding the implementation of OISE's academic plan, its structural deficit, as well as further development of the Master of Teaching program. The Committee also requested an update regarding how the Institute will address the reviewers' recommendations with respect to OISE's response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.
- e) The May 2016 review of the Health Studies undergraduate program (University of Toronto Scarborough), along with the October 3, 2016 decanal response. Following discussion, AP&P indicated that it would be helpful to receive a follow-up report in one year from the Vice-Principal Academic and Dean regarding the planned restructuring, including strengthening leadership within the academic unit as well as the plans for two degree options.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- a) Department of East Asian Studies and its programs (Faculty of Arts and Science)
Over the course of the 2016-17 academic year, East Asian Studies (EAS) teaching capacity and resources were reviewed to address EAS's goal of better meeting student demand for language instruction while also diversifying undergraduate course offerings that do not entail intensive language instruction. This review resulted in funding allocations allowing for increased capacity of 11 half-course equivalents (HCEs) over the next two years, 4 of which were approved this year for immediate action. The Dean has allocated additional discretionary funding to EAS for a variety of activities (e.g., conferences, graduate travel) and committed funds towards a renovation of EAS's space. EAS has taken a number of actions to support best practices in pedagogy. It has implemented a policy to ensure a maximum of 25 students in language tutorials and undertaken a curriculum review to streamline student flows and enrolment pressures. One faculty member has successfully applied for funds to pilot a web-based flipped classroom approach for first year Korean language, which the Department can expand to upper year courses and other languages if the approach proves effective.

- b) Ethics, Society and Law undergraduate program (Faculty of Arts and Science)
Trinity College has increased its financial support for the Ethics, Society and Law (ES&L) program over the last two years. The Faculty of Arts and Science and Trinity College have confirmed that strong student demand and ongoing faculty contributions to research supervision and course instruction continue to underpin the program's sustainability. The Faculty of Arts and Science Dean's Office has initiated discussions with the Program Director and Chairs of cognate units (Philosophy, Sociology, Political Science), to address ES&L students' access to courses in these areas and avenues for collaboration, including the possible introduction of "focus areas". An ES&L Council made up of representatives from the program, cognate units, and the Faculty of Arts and Science is being established to provide ongoing program oversight and facilitate communication. Over the last year, ES&L has reduced the number of sessional instructors by ensuring that core courses are taught by tenured faculty, while continuing to draw on the relevant professional expertise of sessional instructors for elective courses such as Law Workshops. Trinity College's recent reorganization of office space has provided all ES&L instructors office space in the same building as the U of T Centre for Ethics, supporting collegiality and collaboration.

- c) Faculty of Forestry and its programs (Faculty of Forestry)
The Faculty of Forestry is in the midst of discussions around possible restructuring, as part of a consultation process initiated by the Provost's Office. Ongoing discussions include the future relationship with teaching in association with the Faculty of Arts and Science, addressing existing enrolments and offerings within the undergraduate programs in Arts & Science. Discussions have the potential to strengthen and expand graduate offerings, and establish opportunities to increase indigenous involvement and teaching in the Faculty. Decisions regarding long-term faculty appointments and fundraising initiatives will be informed by a strong, innovative plan that will arise out of the restructuring conversations.

d) Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE)

During 2016-17, OISE's senior leadership team engaged with the OISE community in a comprehensive and inclusive academic planning process OISE that has resulted in a plan that leverages OISE's strengths, is embraced by the OISE community, and will guide OISE's decision making and major initiatives for the next five years. OISE will implement the priorities outlined in the academic plan in a fiscally responsible manner. To address its structural deficit, OISE will focus on modest graduate enrolment growth, growing continuing and professional learning offerings, and advancement. It will also increase departmental capacity for financial planning through a new budget model to be implemented in 2017-18. OISE had a modest carry-forward at the end of 2016-17 and anticipates a balanced budget in the next few years. OISE is engaging in a Master in Teaching (MT) Visioning process, focusing on program learning outcomes and their alignment with degree level expectations and accreditation requirements; alignment with academic planning priorities; support for research, student experience and program innovation; and curriculum mapping. OISE will implement an Indigenous Reconciliation process through developing and sustaining Indigenous initiatives in (1) programs and curricula; (2) research and scholarship; (3) Indigenous faculty, staff and students; (4) Indigenous community spaces; and (5) deepening the understanding and responsibility of faculty, staff and students.

e) Health Studies undergraduate program (University of Toronto Scarborough)

Health Studies has restructured its academic unit following the reviewers' recommendations and established the Interdisciplinary Centre for Health and Society (ICHS) as an EDU: B effective July 1, 2017. An Interim Director has been appointed and ICHS will conduct its search for a Director in the 2017-18 academic year. ICHS is addressing faculty complement size and structure to ensure balance and adequate support for the academic programs and will conduct a search for two additional tenure-stream positions in 2017-18. Health Studies has considered the reviewers' recommendations for curriculum change, which do not fit within University norms. The program already has an integrated core, reflecting the spirit of the reviewers' recommendations, as well as requiring specialized upper-year courses that support the learning outcomes appropriate to a BA or BSc degree program.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

For Information.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

- a) Department of East Asian Studies and its programs (Faculty of Arts and Science), Follow-up Letter from Dean David Cameron, October 4, 2017
- b) Ethics, Society and Law undergraduate program (Faculty of Arts and Science), Follow-up Letter from Dean David Cameron, October 4, 2017
- c) Faculty of Forestry and its programs (Faculty of Forestry), Follow-up Letter from Deans Robert Wright and David Cameron, October 10, 2017
- d) Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (Ontario Institute for Studies in Education) Follow-up Letter from Dean Glen A. Jones, August 14, 2017
- e) Health Studies undergraduate program (University of Toronto Scarborough), Follow-up Letter from Vice-Principal Academic and Dean, William Gough, August 1, 2017