



FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC

CLOSED SESSION

TO: Executive Committee

SPONSOR: Cheryl Regehr, Vice-President and Provost
CONTACT INFO: (416) 978-2122, cheryl.regehr@utoronto.ca

PRESENTER: See above
CONTACT INFO:

DATE: March 20, 2018 for April 3, 2018

AGENDA ITEM: 10(a.)(i)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Semi-Annual Report on the Reviews of Academic Units and Programs,
October 2017 – March 2018

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

“The Committee...has general responsibility...for monitoring, the quality of education and the research activities of the University. In fulfilling this responsibility, the Committee works to ensure the excellent quality of academic programs by...monitoring reviews of existing programs....The Committee receives annual reports or such more frequent regular reports as it may determine, on matters within its purview, including reports on the ...[r]eviews of academic units and programs.” (*Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) Terms of Reference, Sections 3, 4.9*)

Within the *Accountability Framework for Cyclical Review of Academic Programs and Units*, the role of AP&P is to undertake “a comprehensive overview of review results and administrative responses.” AP&P “receive[s] semi-annual program review reports including summaries of all reviews, identifying key issues and administrative responses,” which are discussed at a “dedicated program review meeting with relevant academic leadership.” (*Policy for Approval and Review of Academic Programs and Units*). AP&P’s role is to ensure that the reviews are conducted in line with the University’s policy and guidelines; to ensure that the Office of the Vice-President and Provost has managed the review process appropriately; to ensure that all issues relative to the quality of academic programs have been addressed or that there is a plan to address them; and to make recommendations concerning the need for a follow up report.

The compendium of review summaries 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 warranting discussion at the Board level. The same documentation is sent to the Executive Committee and the Governing Council for information.

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. Committee on Academic Policy and Programs [for information] (April 3, 2018)
2. Agenda Committee of the Academic Board [for information] (April 10, 2018)
3. Academic Board [for information] (April 19, 2018)
- 4. Executive Committee of the Governing Council [for information] (May 8, 2018)**
5. Governing Council [for information] (May 17, 2018)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

Governing Council approved the *Policy for Approval and Review of Academic Programs and Units* in 2010. The *Policy* outlines University-wide principles for the approval of proposed new academic programs and review of existing programs and units. Its purpose is to align the University's quality assurance processes with the Province's Quality Assurance Framework through establishing the authority of the University of Toronto's Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP).

The Semi-Annual Report on the Reviews of Academic Units and Programs (April 2017 – September 2017) was previously submitted to the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs on November 2, 2017.

HIGHLIGHTS:

External reviews of academic programs and units are important mechanisms of accountability for the University and a vital part of the academic planning process. Academic reviews are critical to ensuring the quality of our programs through vigorous and consistent processes that assess the quality of new and existing programs and units against our international peers.

Summaries of the external review reports and the complete decanal responses for ten external reviews of units and/or academic programs are being submitted to AP&P for information and discussion. Of these, one was commissioned by the Vice-President and Provost and nine were commissioned by the Dean. The signed administrative responses from each Dean highlight action plans in response to reviewer recommendations.

Overall, the themes raised in these reviews echoed those in previous compendia: the excellent quality of our programs, the talent and high calibre of our students, and the impressive body of scholarship produced by our faculty. In addition, this set of reviews highlighted the continuing success of faculty grant applications in a competitive funding environment, and the diversity of research opportunities available overall to undergraduate and graduate students.

As always, the reviews noted areas for development. These included exploring options to secure more home department course offerings, encouraging faculty participation and attendance at committee and Council meetings, and considering closer tracking of post-graduate outcomes.

Further, as was highlighted in the previous compendia, the reviewers noted that graduate student time to completion rates, while improving, require continued support.

Additional reviews of programs are conducted by organizations external to the University. Reviews of academic programs by external bodies form part of collegial self-regulatory systems to ensure that mutually agreed-upon threshold standards of quality are maintained in new and existing programs. A summary listing of these reviews are presented in the Appendix.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for information.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

Compendium of Reviews of Academic Programs and Units, October 2017 – March 2018



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SPONSOR: Cheryl Regehr, Vice-President and Provost
CONTACT INFO: (416) 978-2122, cheryl.regehr@utoronto.ca

PRESENTER: See above
CONTACT INFO:

DATE: May 1, 2018 for May 8, 2018

AGENDA ITEM: 10(a.)(ii)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Follow-up Reports on Reviews:

Dalla Lana School of Public Health and its programs (Dalla Lana School of Public Health)

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Under its Terms of Reference, the Academic Board and/or one of its Standing Committees has responsibility for Academic Programs (*Academic Board Terms of Reference, Section 5.1*).

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] (April 3, 2018)

2. Agenda Committee of the Academic Board [for information] (April 10, 2018)
3. Academic Board [for information] (April 19, 2018)
- 4. Executive Committee of the Governing Council [for information] (May 8, 2018)**
5. Governing Council [for information] (May 17, 2018)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

At its meeting on March 29, 2017, AP&P considered the following review:

The November 2016 review of the Dalla Lana School of Public Health (DLSPH) and its programs, as well as the March 1, 2017 decanal response. AP&P requested a one-year follow-up report regarding the development of an operational/implementation plan based on the strategic plan, including how implementation would take place under the new Dean; steps to reduce the number of “silos” and increase integration within the faculty; the recommendation to appoint a Deputy Dean (or equivalent) position, and; plans for reducing the PhD time to completion.

HIGHLIGHTS:

In July 2017, an interim Dean, and an Acting Director of the IHPME, were appointed. Strategic directions will be identified in an academic plan, once a new Dean has been appointed. In the interim, the DLSPH developed an Operational Plan (2017-2021). Consultations with the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation (IHPME) and the Department of Public Health Sciences took place from October 2017 to January 2018. A final plan was confirmed in January 2018 and was scheduled for review at the DLSPH School Council meeting of March 5, 2018. The Plan has assisted in providing operational guidance for the DLSPH.

The DLSPH led by the interim Dean has moved forward with several deliverables. The Faculty has taken a number of steps to tackle the silos and promote coherence and graduate unit strength. They conducted an administrative review in May 2017 and an IT review in January 2018. Consultations on new professional development and continuing studies initiatives were held. Alumni activities and outreach has been increased and consolidated where appropriate. Governance processes have been prioritized, and regular faculty meetings are held. A Faculty-wide branding initiative is underway to promote communication and collaborations; monthly events, bulletins and other communications are helping to build on this goal. As well, a Faculty-wide complement plan has been developed, and discussions are underway with the Faculty of Medicine regarding shared and overlapping program offerings.

The follow-up report confirmed that after consideration of the external reviewers recommendation to hire a Deputy Dean, the Faculty will not be hiring a Deputy Dean. It is noted that no additional changes to the administration of the Dean’s Office are planned until a permanent Dean is in place.

The Faculty is reducing the time to candidacy. Following this, in 2020 an analysis will be conducted into the factors that lead to a long time-to-degree. Ultimately, the Faculty is aiming to reduce the average time-to-completion for doctoral students entering as as 2020 and later.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

For Information.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

- Dalla Lana School of Public Health Science, and its programs (Dalla Lana School of Public Health) Follow-up Letter from Interim Dean Adalsteinn Brown Dated February 26, 2018