



FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: Academic Board

SPONSOR: Susan McCahan, Vice Provost, Academic Programs
CONTACT INFO: (416) 978-0490, vpademicprograms@utoronto.ca

PRESENTER: See Above
CONTACT INFO:

DATE: November 15, 2018 for November 22, 2018

AGENDA ITEM: 2

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Follow-up Reports on Reviews:

- a) Department of Historical Studies, and its programs (University of Toronto Mississauga)
- b) Department of Chemical and Physical Sciences, and its programs (University of Toronto Mississauga)

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 1, 2018)
2. Agenda Committee of the Academic Board [for information] (November 13, 2018)
3. **Academic Board [for information] (November 22, 2018)**

4. Executive Committee of the Governing Council [for information] (December 4, 2018)
5. Governing Council [for information] (December 13, 2018)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

At its meeting on November 2, 2017, AP&P considered the following reviews:

- a) The February 2017 review of the Department of Historical Studies, and its programs (University of Toronto Mississauga), and the October 3, 2017 decanal response. AP&P requested a one-year follow-up report that addresses the issue of staff morale.
- b) The February 2017 review of the Department of Chemical and Physical Sciences, and its programs (University of Toronto Mississauga), and the October 2, 2017 decanal response. AP&P requested a one-year follow-up report that addresses the progress made in considering the sustainability of astronomy within the Department.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- a) The Department determined there are two issues negatively affecting staff morale. First, the lack of faculty presence on campus, an issue also identified by the reviewers. In response to this, faculty have started organizing new graduate and undergraduate opportunities and events that take place on campus. These additions have had a positive impact on faculty presence, which has been well received by staff who appreciate their involvement in the various opportunities. An additional change to be implemented in 2019-20 will require faculty who teach two courses in the same semester to teach the courses on different days.

The second issue affecting staff morale is in regards to some identified human resource issues and staff workload. To address this, the Chair is working with the Dean's office to create a PM role with managerial authority. Additionally, the Department is working with HR to assess staffing distribution and needs. The Department anticipates completing these tasks by the end of the 2018-19 academic year.

- b) The Department discussed the sustainability of astronomy at the 2017 Departmental Retreat, and at a faculty meeting on May 30, 2018. While there are limited resources to offer the program, there continues to be a commitment to offering astronomy given the continuing student interest and enrolment and the strong relationships with physics and earth sciences.

Moving forward, the Department notes that the astronomy program can be supported both through physics and mathematics curricular offerings and by hiring two new astronomy faculty, one teaching-stream and one tenure-stream. Courses on astronomy taught by new faculty hires would also be cross-listed to physics to benefit students in these programs as well.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

For Information.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

- a) Department of Historical Studies, and its programs (University of Toronto Mississauga) Follow-up Letter from Acting Vice-Principal and Academic Dean Angela Lange, dated October 1, 2018.
- b) Department of Chemical and Physical Sciences, and its programs (University of Toronto Mississauga) Follow-up Letter from Acting Vice-Principal and Academic Dean Angela Lange, dated October 1, 2018