



**FOR INFORMATION**

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**OPEN SESSION**

**TO:** UTM Campus Council

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**PRESENTER:** See above  
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**DATE:** January 23, 2019 for January 30, 2019

**AGENDA ITEM:** 4

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

Vice-President & Principal’s Report: Background information

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

Under section 5.6, (Matters for Information) of its Terms of Reference, the UTM Campus Council “receives, annually from its assessors, reports on matters within its areas of responsibility, including statements of current issues, opportunities and problems, and recommendations for changes in policies, plans or priorities that would address such issues.”

**GOVERNANCE PATH:**

- 1. UTM Campus Council [For Information] (January 30, 2019)**

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

None

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Science Building

The architects of the Science building (Kieran Timberlake, KT) have presented the latest drawings/plans to the UofT Design Review Committee (DRC). The DRC has enthusiastically endorsed the plans and indicated appreciation for how the design has evolved. Only a few minor suggestions for consideration were raised and will be addressed by KT by Email response. There will be one last monthly meeting with the UTM large users group and few final design meetings with the smaller groups. From February to July the design team will go into hiatus to work on contract document. KT has been asked to finish the design documents a month earlier than initially planned so that UTM can accommodate a geothermal installation without compromising

the construction completion date. The intention is to make the Science building one of the most energy efficient of its type in North America.

- Arts Culture Technology (ACT) Building

Increasing student enrolments and faculty/staff hiring are such that a new building is justified by COU standards and by the quality of instruction demanded of UofT as a leading institution. There are a variety of initiatives in the Academic Plan that connect broadly to a theme of digital technologies. We are proposing to combine a number of these initiatives under one roof to encourage collaborations that bridge the humanities with the sciences. This new building will include a number of traditional classrooms, inverted classrooms and instructional (computer) laboratories for faculty who teach in MCS, the ICCIT and DVS. Space is needed for research support of faculty in CS/MCS, ICCIT, DVS and faculty in various departments who are pursuing relevant projects in the humanities. To further support interactions, units that embrace application of digital technologies will serve as partners and these could include the UTM Theatre, Library, ICUBE and the Blackwood Gallery. There is interest to conceptually connect groups that research, design, and actively engage with the software of technologies, to consider the cultural impacts and social consequences of innovations and adoption.

We are exploring the possibility of the site being near the northeast corner of the UTM campus, across Outer Circle Road from Deerfield Hall and the “new North” building, clustering close to the humanities departments and being located in an area of the campus ideally suited for robotics research (to distance autonomous ground and aerial vehicles from areas of high population density). We intend to create collisions in an “Arts-Culture-Technology” space, supporting core academic programs and departments, and adding urgently needed study space, and space for library technology support.

- Four Corners Strategy

UTM is considering what opportunities might align with the new Four Corners strategy that was considered and adopted by Governing Council in December; <https://www.utoronto.ca/news/four-corners-u-t-unveils-development-strategy-campus-housing-other-key-services>

The strategy calls for investments in capital projects that would generate strong financial returns while managing risk, in a manner that responds to current and future space needs in the areas of:

- Improvement of the amenities and environment on and at the edges of the campuses
- Growth of the portfolio of quality, attainable accommodation (residence and housing)
- Promotion of innovation and commercialization by providing suitable space
- Support of University engagement in civic goals

UTM is working with the UofT VP Operations & Real Estate Partnerships (Scott Mabury) to consider potential projects such as a new student residence, faculty/staff housing on Mississauga Road across from UTM, and opportunity connected to municipal interest to support a commercialization centre in Mississauga.

- Impact of impending Provincial financial cut backs

Reacting to announcements and leaked documents; there can be no meaningful reaction and response in planning until we have a complete picture of the changes (domestic and international student, operating budget, new program approvals, OSAP changes).

- Program Changes

Decisions about funding of new Graduate Program proposals appear to be delayed and a decision is required for the launch of the Master of Urban Innovation program. After consultation with the VPA&D, finance and the MUI Program Director, I have decided to continue to move ahead with the program launch although we do not have Provincial funding approvals and there is financial risk to UTM. I have chosen to support those many faculty who have brought us to this point of launch in a process that has taken 3 years of effort, for a project that is a glue across the UTM and UTSG campuses, with the knowledge that short-term funding is available in the UTM budget by redirecting from capital accounts. I see this as an investment in what UTM has in hand, at a cost of potentially delaying the implementation of future visions.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

None

**RECOMMENDATION:**

This item is for information

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**DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:**

See links provided in the *Highlights* section of this document.