



FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: UTM Campus Council

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PRESENTER: See above
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DATE: February 26, 2019 for March 5, 2019

AGENDA ITEM: 3

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] (March 5, 2019)**

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

None

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Arts Culture Technology (ACT) Building

The first cycle of input to the planning committee has completed, and this has been done to determine the “wish list”. The proposals that have been made total to a value more than twice of the funding that is available. The next step will be to define the academic priorities and cost-efficiencies across the “wish list”. As just one example; archival space needs have been signaled by the Library, the Blackwood Gallery and potentially for holdings by academic units such as the Department of Visual Studies and the Department of Anthropology. Grouping of needs will proceed and the academic plan will guide priorities.

- Impact of impending Provincial financial cut backs and program changes

UTM has been hiring faculty/staff and continues to build facilities to improve the experience for all students at this campus, which will ensure the experience at UTM is commensurate with that at UTSG and UTSC. We are still in an investment mode and the academic plan calls for further hires and construction. The decision by the province has implications for all students, faculty and staff at UTM as the financial shortfall confronting the multi-year plan has the potential to derail efforts to maintain a level of quality worthy of UofT and consistent across the University. UTM will be looking at all financial options to find a path that will protect the integrity of the plan and the aspirations of quality we have for every member of our campus community. Exploration of alternatives has been initiated with academic Chairs/Directors. The intention is to find a path that will avoid a broad-based budget cut to all units. A wide variety of options are being considered as a mix of actions, and this includes reducing expenses and increasing revenue.

One question that has surfaced is whether the budget shortfall will be eliminated with an international student enrolment increase? Student enrolment is the only revenue source available to UTM in the short-term. There are caps on domestic enrolment set by the Strategic Mandate Agreement:

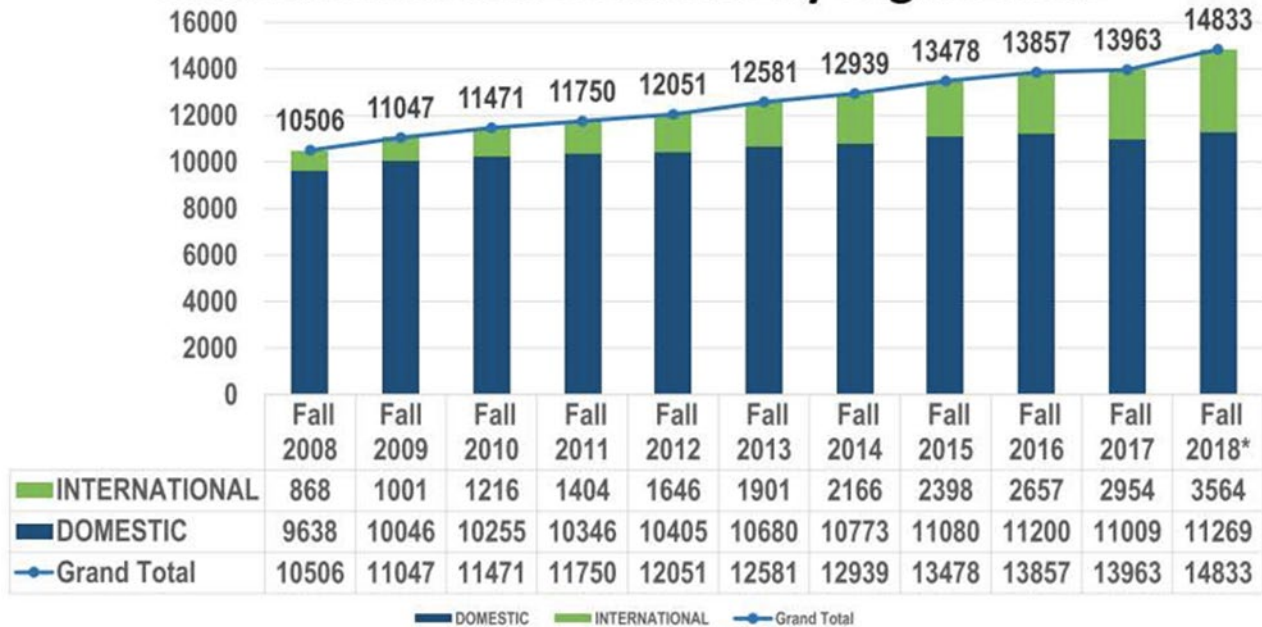
<https://www.utoronto.ca/sites/default/files/University%20of%20Toronto%20SMA%202017-20%20%28for%20publication%29.pdf>).

There is some flexibility in international student enrolment. UTM has no intention to eliminate the budget shortfall by enrolling many more international students. However, some additional international students is a possibility as one component of an integrated plan that also includes cost controls/reductions.

The experience that UTM had last year and that the Varsity newspaper reported; <https://thevarsity.ca/2018/09/03/utm-expects-to-welcome-its-largest-group-of-first-year-students/> confirms that there is strong international student demand. UTM was able to accommodate the unexpected enrolment increase but had not planned on this to continue at this point in the academic plan. It is important to have context in that UTM intends to have about 25% of the undergraduate population be international students. Discussions over some years have indicated a general consensus that a proportion of about 25% international students is desired for the experience UTM wishes all undergraduate students to share. This is part of the UTM commitment to UofT to truly be an international university with significant representation from around the world. Interestingly, there are a variety of opinions across UofT about the best ratio for domestic and international students. UTM has chosen a ratio that is more conservative than some other first-entry divisions at UofT. The actual numbers of students and the progress to reach a level of about 25% international undergraduate enrolment were shown recently at the November 21/18 meeting of Campus Council.

<http://www.governingcouncil.lamp4.utoronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/a1121-3i-2018-2019utmcc.pdf>

20089-20189 Total Headcount – International and Domestic by Legal Status



Data Source: 2008-2017 from UTBI at Count Date, Fall 2018* from ROSI
Domestic includes Canadian Citizens & Canada Permanent Residents

19/11/2018

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The growth plan and increase in international students has been in place for some years and is not a reaction to the recent provincial announcement. Of relevance is that UTM still has some room to increase the international student numbers even with the unexpected additional influx of international students that arrived in fall/18.

What does all this mean? UTM had intended to reach a higher ratio of international students in the undergraduate mix based on academic aspirations that were considered in Governance. The decision by the province might accelerate the timeline if the academic community at UTM wishes to consider the option of more quickly moving to the international student target. This would represent a change in timing and not a change in the substance of our longer-term academic plan.

At present, no decisions have been made regarding any actions to achieve reductions in financial expenditures and/or to achieve increased revenue. I anticipate that an integrated plan will be completed by the end of March.

- Master of Urban Innovation program delayed by request

A decision was made by the Program Director to delay the launch of the Master of Urban Innovation program to Sept/20. It was determined that students in programs that have not been approved by the Province are also not eligible for OSAP support. The MUI program proposal has still not been reviewed by the Province. Given the lead time that is necessary to advertise and recruit for a new program and that a significant financial support could not be guaranteed, it was decided as a matter of fairness to all potential applicants that a start in 2020 was preferred.

- City of Mississauga funding decision

A decision by City of Mississauga Council was finalized on Feb 6/19 to terminate financial support for the Innovation Complex project this year. The debate can be viewed at:

<http://www.mississauga.ca/portal/cityhall/council-and-committee-videos>

The Mississauga Board of Trade made a presentation and an appeal to City Council indicating the economic significance of UTM, which was the purpose of the financial support to UTM by the City. The primary explanation for termination offered during Council discussion was that Mississauga Road residents continue to express concerns about students living in their neighbourhoods. It was indicated for the public record that UTM had not sufficiently invested in student housing, had not cooperated with the City in addressing student housing, and that the housing issue is UTM's to solve. The comments made included that, "The student-housing issue is atrocious", and "Mississauga Road is not a student-housing street.", as reported in the Mississauga News; <https://www.mississauga.com/news-story/9165719-city-council-rejects-1m-grant-for-university-of-toronto-mississauga/>

What was not stated were the many actions that UTM has taken in collaboration with the City over a period of years, and recognition that UTM has no control of how local residential properties are used and maintained (which is a municipal matter). A letter has been sent to our Ward 8 Councillor and to the City leadership to address the misinformation that was presented. The letter also questions that a decision to end a commitment made for investment in economic development should be linked to houses along the Mississauga Road corridor that are being leased to students.

The \$10M investment by the City of Mississauga was one of their largest in economic development and has been withdrawn. The evidence indicates that Council no longer embraces a shared vision for economic development that was initiated in good faith 5 years ago. I have therefore resigned from the Mississauga Economic Development Advisory Board, while expressing that UTM remains committed to city building and will continue to work with industry partners and other community stakeholders to develop exceptional academic programs, talented graduates and groundbreaking research that will have a profound impact on Mississauga and the Region of Peel.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for information

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

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