



FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: UTM Campus Council

SPONSOR: Prof. Ulrich Krull, Vice-President & Principal
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PRESENTER: See above
CONTACT INFO:

DATE: April 8, 2019 for April 15, 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] (April 15, 2019)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

None

HIGHLIGHTS:

Boundless Campaign results at the close of the campaign on Dec 31/18

<https://boundless.utoronto.ca/news/boundless-campaign-exceeds-expanded-fundraising-goal-and-creates-lasting-impact/>

The total funds raised to advance the University of Toronto's global leadership and impact is \$2,641,331,307.

- 104,059 donors spanning 99 countries gave to Boundless.

- Their generosity supported or created nearly 4,000 scholarships and bursaries and helped push U of T's endowment earmarked for student support past the \$1 billion mark.
- Close to 50,000 donors made their first gift to U of T during the campaign.
- 52,198 donors have given two or more gifts to the campaign.
- More than 16,000 donors under the age of 40 gave to the campaign.
- U of T engaged more than 30,000 young alumni during the campaign through unique event offerings such as the Next Steps Conference and the SHAKER program.
- More than 19,000 alumni and friends served as volunteers.

Some of the major investments at UTM include:

- The Centre for South Asian Civilizations
- The Health Sciences Complex
- The Innovation Complex
- The New North building
- The Centre for Medicinal Chemistry

Update on the Arts-Culture-Technology building proposal

A working group is laying out a proposal for a new building with the working title of ACT, where digital technologies would be a focal point to bring together academic units in the humanities, social sciences and sciences.

A broad request for proposals of what might be in such a building has identified projects of interest that total to a value of well over twice the budget that is tentatively available. The intention is to revisit this situation by developing a space program that better addresses new construction in combination with renovations.

Campus master plan renewal

The requirement is that the master plan be renewed every 10 years, and the last cycle was completed in 2011; <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/facilities/campus-master-plan>. The development of a new master plan is timely given the extensive construction that has taken place, the space constraints due to this construction, the shifting boundary conditions imposed on UTM due to re-evaluation of risks associated with climate change, the need to consider new projects such as the Arts-Culture-Technology initiative, and interest by UTM and the City of Mississauga to support a new playing field that might allow development of a Cricket Pitch.

Moving forward on sustainability components of academic plan

<https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/dean/sites/files/dean/public/shared/Draft%20Implementation%20Plan%20version%204.0B-without%20watermark.pdf>

Four areas for action:

- new undergraduate programs/certificate

- establishing research seed funding and using UTM as a pilot site
- registering as full member of Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (will be using students in courses to assist with data collection/reporting); <https://www.aashe.org/>
- establishing leadership with an appointee that can bridge academic and non-academic components.

Student Choice Initiative

<https://thevarsity.ca/tag/student-choice-initiative/>

The Province has stated that the purpose of the initiative is to:

- ensure transparency regarding the non-tuition fees students are expected to pay;
- bring consistency and simplicity to the opt-out process; and
- ensure students have more choice regarding the services and activities they support.

Fees considered essential are:

- Athletics and Recreation
- Career Services
- Student Buildings
- Health and Counselling
- Academic Support
- Student ID Cards
- Transcripts, convocation
- Financial Aid Offices
- Walk Safe Programs
- Health and Dental plans (opt-out allowed with proof of existing coverage)
- Existing Compulsory Transit Passes

Key indications and actions:

All fees defined as non-essential under the Province's new framework must now be optional. This is a binding policy directive from the provincial government. The implementation for on-line item-by-item selection must be in place by this coming September.

The consequence experienced at other academic institutions that have gone through similar situations is an opt-out rate at a level as high as 50%. This directive from the Province could lead to serious negative financial impact for the UTMSU and jeopardizes their contributions to significant aspects of campus life, student support and the student voice (such as the student newspaper, the food bank, peer-to-peer advising, equity initiatives, the weekly breakfast series, orientation, exam stress activities, etc.).

The administration will be working with the UTMSU to help ensure that the value of the UTMSU is clear, including supporting the UTMSU message to reach incoming students. There will also be discussion about where activities and interests are in strong overlap with Student Affairs and what

might be shared so that UTM can buffer impact.

Mental health

As announced on March 28, President Gertler has initiated a review across the University; <http://www.president.utoronto.ca/a-letter-from-president-gertler-on-student-mental-health-at-u-of-t>. I anticipate that this review will be helpful in broadly directing activities.

I note that many activities are in place to support our UTM undergraduate and graduate students by Student Affairs, our academic departments, our health services unit and the UTMSU. The intention of programming is described in detail in multiple support sites such as:

<https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/tlc/general-teaching-advice>;
<https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/health/bewellutm2018>;
<https://utmsu.ca/utmsu-events/>

What concerns me greatly is that many students either do not seem to be aware of the services that are offered, or that they choose not to participate. There is also an important distinction to be made between those who require treatment due to mental illness and those who would benefit from a supportive environment to help alleviate stress.

The reality in our 3-campus system is that the resources and functional structure is different at each campus. UTM has embarked with a strategy and a plan of action to address issues for our students, staff and faculty. UTM has since last fall been planning a significant investment in addressing student advising. This was temporarily derailed with the budgetary impact created by the new Provincial directives about tuition. UTM is now moving forward after finding internal adjustments such as delayed faculty hires and construction to better balance the budget. The implementation will address two layers of effort at UTM – one being support for mental health, and the other being improved approaches to student advising.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for information

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

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