



FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: UTM Campus Council

SPONSOR: Professor Amrita Daniere, Acting Vice-President & Principal
CONTACT INFO: 905-828-3719, amrita.daniere@utoronto.ca

PRESENTER: See above
CONTACT INFO:

DATE: May 17, 2019 for May 27, 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] (May 27, 2019)**

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

None

HIGHLIGHTS:

1. Acting Vice President and Principal role
 - Brief explanation of changes at UTM while Ulli is away on medical leave. Amrita Daniere is Acting Vice-President and Principal, and Angela Lange is Acting Vice-Principal Academic and Dean. These positions will continue until September 3, 2019.
2. Update in Indigenous Initiatives
 - The draft report on the UTM Indigenous Initiative Task Force Report (IITF) is essentially complete and will be posted on the Dean’s website soon. The report was commissioned by the Dean two years ago and good progress has been made since the IITF was struck.

- Naming of the new North Building. Susan Senese, Executive Director- Strategy, and I visited the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation on May 13th where we received the name for the building and discussed future joint initiatives.
- UTM is diligently working on a variety of Indigenous Initiatives. Some of the initiatives include; providing some office space to the Mississaugas at UTM when visiting the campus; designating and creating additional interior and exterior spaces appropriate for Indigenous celebrations and activities; possible custom-built space for an Indigenous Centre at UTM in the new ACT building; and possible Indigenous hires at the faculty and staff level.

3. Update on the Arts-Culture-Technology building

- Had a number of meetings among senior administrators to prioritize what will be included in the building to fit within the footprint/budget available.
- Priority as established by Ulli Krull focuses on student and academic needs. Many of you might be aware of the need for new space for computer science, in particular a new cluster of faculty working on robotics, and for the ICCIT programs. We do not see any change in demand for these programs in the near future but rather sustained growth and therefore have highest priority for the new building.
- Also, classrooms in a range of sizes are another important aspect of this building.
- We also want to remain true to the vision of the building as an arts and culture hub for the campus.
- Included in the building will be space for CS/Robotics offices, labs and teaching spaces as well as a cinema style classroom for 150 people, a dramatic and substantial space for the Blackwood Gallery and an Indigenous Centre of significant size. We also are exploring inclusion of a sit-down restaurant if at all possible in terms of fiscal commitments.
- We are currently working with stake holders to assemble room-data sheets by the end of June so we can start moving through approval processes in early September.

4. Interesting news on the Provincial front

- The University is working hard at figuring out what greater reliance on the wider range of proposed metrics presented by the Provincial government will mean for UofT.
- The University knows that the government will include metrics around success at winning external grants, graduation rates, employment rates and earnings, experiential education opportunities, among many others. UofT will need to improve its performance year-to-year against itself. UTM will need to focus its attention on all of these measures. Particularly focusing on experiential education and graduation rates as these are congruent with commitments in the Academic Plan.

5. Pilot projects over the summer

A. Self-declared illness form

- Working with two departments
- Implementing a pilot which allows students to use ACORN to let instructors know they are ill or unable to complete work on time for personal reasons.

- Will be entitled to three days (72 hours) without having to produce a doctor's note or other evidence that they are not well.
- Can use this twice in a semester.
- Cannot use it for final exams
- Instructors still need to agree and propose acceptable accommodation.

B. Proactive advising of first-year/second year students over the summer

- Reaching out to students who started this past September (2018) but did not complete 4.0 FCE and/or did not achieve the grades required to enter the program they planned to enter according to their declaration in the fall.
- Using trained senior undergraduates to call these students and ask if they would like to meet with an advisor one-on-one (via SKYPE, the telephone or in person)
- We have chosen some of our most experienced and highly thought of academic advisors to meet with these students and offer them academic advice about options, good courses to take to figure out if another type of program suits them better and find out if they need other kinds of supports. If yes, can direct them to those supports. Also, offer to meet with them again as needed.
- Hope to be able to give these students guidance before they show up in the fall so they feel more organized as they enter second year. Propose alternatives that they may not have considered and make it more likely they will register for courses that will allow them to succeed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for information

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

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