

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

**REPORT NUMBER 149 OF THE PLANNING AND BUDGET COMMITTEE
April 4, 2012**

To the Academic Board,
University of Toronto

Your Committee reports that it held a meeting on Wednesday, April 4, 2012 at 4:10 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Simcoe Hall, at which the following were present:

Dr. Avrum Gotlieb (In the Chair)
Professor Elizabeth Cowper (Vice-Chair)
Professor Cheryl Misak, Vice-President and
Provost
Professor Scott Mabury, Vice-President,
University Operations
Mr. Don Andrew
Professor William Russell Cluett
Ms Sally Garner, Executive Director, Planning
and Budget
Professor Meric Gertler
Mr. Peter A. Hurley
Dr. Jim Yuan Lai
Professor Henry Mann
Professor Amy Mullin
Professor Yves Roberge
Miss Ava-Dayna Sefa

Non-voting Assessor:
Ms Gail Milgrom, Acting Assistant Vice-
President, Campus and Facilities Planning

Secretariat:
Mr. Anwar Kazimi, Secretary

Regrets:
Dr. Chris Koenig-Woodyard
Mr. Manveen Puri
Professor Locke Rowe
Professor Andrea Sass-Kortsak
Ms Grace Carmen Yuen

In Attendance:

Professor Robert Baker, member, Governing Council, Vice-Dean, Research and Graduate Programs,
Faculty of Arts and Science
Ms Judith Wolfson, Vice-President, University Relations
Ms Sheree Drummond, Assistant Provost
Dr. Jane Harrison, Director, Policy and Planning, Office of the Vice-President and Provost
Professor Don Jackson, Interim Director, Centre for Environment, Faculty of Arts and Science
Ms Helen Lasthiotakis, Assistant Dean and Director, Office of the Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science
Professor Sandy Welsh, Special Advisor to the Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science

ITEMS 3 AND 4 ARE RECOMMENDED TO THE ACADEMIC BOARD FOR APPROVAL. ALL OTHER ITEMS ARE REPORTED FOR INFORMATION.

1. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed guests to the meeting. He congratulated Professor Elizabeth Cowper on her appointment as Vice-Chair of the Committee.

2. Senior Assessor's Report

Professor Misak reported on three matters.

1. *Provincial Budget*

Professor Misak said that the proposed provincial government budget had stated its intention to eliminate the deficit by 2017-18. To attain this goal, the budget included concrete cost constraints, many of which are relevant to universities. For instance, it signaled executive compensation restrictions and increases in member contributions for public service defined-benefit pension plans.

Professor Misak said that an unexpected item in the budget had been the withdrawal from the universities of operating funding of \$825 for each international non-PhD student. The change would be effective 2013-14. For the University of Toronto, this would translate to a cost of \$2 million. The budget had also signaled that this cost could be recovered by the universities from international students. Professor Misak said that it was conceivable that this additional cost could affect the enrolment numbers of international student for certain divisions. However, she added that the overall tuition fees for international students at the University remained lower than those at equivalent universities in the U.S. and the U.K.

Professor Misak reported on certain other items related to post-secondary education in the provincial budget:

- The budget had included an estimated reduction of \$55 million from the unallocated funding provided to post-secondary education institutions.
- The International Student Exchange Program had been discontinued.
- Funding for the Ontario Work-Study Program (OWSP) for qualified students would be withdrawn. Professor Misak said that this would have a significant impact at the University. This program had provided many students with meaningful employment in academic departments and other units across the University. Ms Wolfson added that the University would engage in further discussions with the government on this matter.
- There would be an increase of 1.9 per cent in the operating fund allocation provided by the provincial government to post-secondary education institutions for 2012-13 compared to the previous year.

2. *Federal Budget*

Professor Misak said that in its budget the federal government had indicated that some funds provided to universities for research would be re-directed to industry-sponsored research.

Senior Assessor's Report (cont'd)**3. Auditor General at the University**

Professor Misak said an audit team from the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario had been conducting an audit of teaching effectiveness at the University as part of a larger audit of post-secondary institutions in Ontario. The academic units and the administration would provide any required data to the auditors and assist in providing a better understanding of the complex and unique nature of teaching and research activities at the University.

3. Towards 2030: The View from 2012 – A Framework

Professor Misak said that the *Towards 2030: The View from 2012 – A Framework* document was a fresh look at the objectives that had been set in the *Towards 2030* document. She said that since September 2011, the Committee, the Academic Board, and the Governing Council had been consulted on, and provided with, the themes that formed the basis of the *Framework* document. Broad consultation had also taken place with the wider University community through three town hall meetings and numerous other meetings with stakeholders. Much constructive feedback was received and had been included in the *Framework* document and in the more detailed document – *Towards 2030: The View from 2012 – An Assessment of the University of Toronto's Progress Since Towards 2030*.

Professor Misak added that the feedback that had been received indicated that the University continued to make impressive progress towards many of its goals, including improving the student experience. This progress had been facilitated by a budget model that allowed divisional leaders to set individual priorities and operate creatively within University policies.

In response to a question from a member, Professor Misak said that the institutional costs of research continued to be a challenge. There had been no increases for research funding in the recently-announced government budgets. Professor Misak said that the University would continue its efforts to advocate for more government funding for research. A member commended the administration for the University's significant achievements despite the fiscal constraints.

On motion duly moved, seconded, and carried,

YOUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS

THAT *Towards 2030: The View from 2012 – A Framework*, dated March 28, 2012, be approved in principle.

Documentation is attached as [Appendix "A"](#).

4. Faculty of Arts and Science: Proposal to disestablish the Centre for Environment and establish the School of the Environment (EDU:B)

Ms Garner presented the highlights of the Faculty of Arts and Science's proposal to disestablish the Centre for Environment and to establish the School of the Environment.

Professor Gertler said that the process for the establishment of the School of the Environment had been under way for a long time. There had been wide-ranging consultations that had included the Faculty of Arts and Science, the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering and the Faculty of Forestry. Professor Gertler said the proposal would provide greater cohesion and visibility to the programs in environment. Concluding his remarks, Professor Gertler said that the proposal had received strong support at the Faculty of Arts and Science Council and beyond.

Invited to address the Committee, Professor Welsh said that the EDU: B status would provide the proposed School the ability to move forward with multi-disciplinary programs at the graduate and undergraduate level, and interdisciplinary research. The consultative process had been initiated in May 2011 and had included three meetings with faculty, administrative staff and students. Students enrolled at the Centre for Environment had provided strong support for the proposal.

In response to a question from a member, Professor Misak said that there were no set guidelines for conferring the status of a School within the University. Citing examples of some Schools at the University, she said that broadly Schools drew the expertise of a broad range of scholars from across the University.

On motion duly moved, seconded, and carried,

YOUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS

- (a) THAT the Centre for Environment be disestablished, effective July 1, 2012;
- (b) THAT the School of the Environment be established as an Extra-Departmental Unit B (EDU:B), effective July 1, 2012.

Documentation is attached as [Appendix "B"](#).

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly moved, seconded, and carried,

It was Resolved

THAT the consent agenda be adopted and that the items be approved.

5. Report of the Previous Meeting (February 29, 2012)

Report Number 148 (February 29, 2012) was approved.

6. Business Arising from the Report of the Previous Meeting

There was no business arising from the report of the previous meeting.

7. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Committee was scheduled for Wednesday, May 16, 2012, at 4:10 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

8. Other Business

There were no items of other business.

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Secretary

Chair

April 6, 2012