

THE GOVERNING COUNCIL
REPORT NUMBER 203 OF THE ACADEMIC BOARD

April 21, 2016

To the Governing Council,
University of Toronto

Your Board reports that it held a meeting on Thursday, April 21, 2016 at 4:10 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Simcoe Hall at which the following were present:

Professor Andrea Sass-Kortsak,
Chair
Professor John S. Bland,
Vice-Chair
Professor Meric Gertler
Dr. Francis Kwabena Ahia
Professor Donald C. Ainslie
Professor Suzanne C. Akbari
Professor Cristina H. Amon
Ms. Ana Patricia Ayala
Dr. Glen Bandiera
Professor Joshua Barker
Mr. Harvey Botting
Ms. Shakira Brathwaite
Professor Markus Bussmann
Professor David Cameron
Professor Carol C. Chin
Professor Luc F. De Nil
Professor Charles M. Deber
Professor David Dubins
Professor Angela Esterhammer
Professor Zhong-Ping Feng

Ms. Rachael Ferenbok
Professor Robert Gibbs
Professor Vivek Goel
Dr. Daniel A. Haas
Professor Kelly Hannah-Moffat
Professor Richard Hegele
Mr. Alex Iovic
Professor Susan Jaglal
Professor Stephen R. Julian
Dr. Allan S. Kaplan
Professor Gretchen Kerr
Professor Ronald H. Kluger
Professor Linda M. Kohn
Professor Ernest W.N. Lam
Ms. Jennifer J. Lau
Professor Ron Levi
Professor Reid B. Locklin
Professor Lorna E. MacDonald
Professor Alice Maurice
Dr. Don McLean
Professor Faye Mishna
Professor Sioban Nelson

Professor Emmanuel Nikiema
Professor Lacra Pavel
Professor Michele Peterson-
Badali
Mr. Tayyab Pirzada
Professor Michael J.H. Ratcliffe
Professor Cheryl Regehr
Ms. Catherine Riddell
Ms. Melinda Scott
Professor Elizabeth M. Smyth
Dr. Salvatore M. Spadafora
Professor Andrew M. Spence
Professor James Stafford
Professor Markus Stock
Professor Scott Thomas
Professor Steven J. Thorpe
Professor Njoki Wane
Professor Ning Yan
Dr. L. Trevor Young
Ms. Alena Zelinka
Ms. Nana Mohan Zhou

REGRETS:

Mr. Faizan Sohail Akbani
Dr. Ramona Alaggia
Professor Benjamin Alarie
Mr. Larry P. Alford
Professor Maydianne C.B
Andrade
Professor Dwayne Benjamin
Dr. Heather S. Boon
Ms. Marilynn Booth
Mr. Ken Chan
Professor Aziza Chaouni
Professor Gary W. Crawford
Professor Maria Cristina Cuervo
Mr. Dan G. D'Agostino
Professor Wendy M. Duff
Ms. Linda Si Jie Gao
Mr. Gary D. Goldberg
Professor Tara Goldstein
Professor William A. Gough
Mr. Magno Miguel Guidote

Ms. Mariam Hanna
Professor Robert V. Harrison
Dr. Bart J. Harvey
Professor Howard Hu
Professor Douglas Hyatt
Professor Edward M. Iacobucci
Professor Linda Johnston
Professor Glen A. Jones
Professor Charlie Keil
Mr. Ray Khan
Professor Bruce Kidd
Ms. Jeannie Kim
Professor Jim Yuan Lai
Professor Scott Mabury
Professor Tiff Macklem
Ms. Martha McLean
Dr. Graeme W. Norval
Ms. N. Jane Pepino
Professor David J. Phillips
Dr. Dana Joanne Philpott

Professor Domenico Pietropaolo
Dr. Helene Polatajko-Howell
Professor Yves Roberge
Ms. Melinda Rogers
Professor Locke Rowe
Professor Mohini M. Sain
Professor Deep Saini
Ms. Susmita Sarkar
Mr. Riaz Sayani-Mulji
Professor Sonia Sedivy
Mr. Hugh D. Segal
Dr. Anne Harriet Simmonds
Professor Richard M. Sommer
Ms. Lorraine Sugar
Professor Nhung Tuyet Tran
Professor Vincent Tropepe
Ms. Emily Tsui
Ms. Marissa Zhang

Non-Voting Assessors

Professor Angela Hildyard, Vice-President Human Resources and Equity

Professor Susan McCahan, Vice-Provost, Innovations in Undergraduate Education

Secretariat:

Mr. Anwar Kazimi, Secretary, Academic Board

Mr. Patrick McNeill

In Attendance:

Professor Susan Christoffersen, Vice-Dean, Undergraduate & Pre-Experience Programs,

Joseph L. Rotman School of Management (Rotman)

Ms. Jennifer Francisco, Coordinator, Academic Change, Office of the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs

Ms Nora Gillespie, Senior Legal Counsel, Office of the Vice-President and Provost

Professor Alan Hayes, Director, Toronto School of Theology

Mr. Michael Kurts, Executive Director, Communications Partnerships, University of Toronto

Communications

Ms. Helen Lashiotakis, Executive Director, Office of the Vice-President, Research & Innovation

Dr. Daniella Mallinick, Director, Academic Programs, Planning and Quality Assurance, Office of the

Vice-Provost, Academic Programs

Professor Mark Schmuckler, Vice-Dean, Undergraduate, University of Toronto Scarborough

Ms Archana Sridhar, Assistant Provost

ITEM 3 IS RECOMMENDED TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR CONFIRMATION.
ALL OTHER ITEMS ARE REPORTED FOR INFORMATION.

OPEN SESSION**1. Chair's Remarks**

The Chair welcomed members and guests to the meeting. She thanked members who would continue to serve on the Board in 2016-17 and who had completed the online committee preferences form. The Board's Striking Committee would meet in the coming days for co-opted positions on the Board. The Committee's recommendations would be brought forward for the Board's consideration at its meeting on May 30, 2016.

The Chair announced two Board teaching staff election results:

- Professor Nicholas Everett (Department of History) had been acclaimed as a representative from the Faculty of Arts and Science for a term until June 30, 2018.
- Professor Reinhart Reithmeier (Department of Biochemistry) had been acclaimed as a representative from the Faculty of Medicine to serve a three-year term effective July 1, 2016.

2. Report of the Vice-President and Provost

Professor Regehr made a presentation ([appended to this report](#)) on two matters, highlighting the following:

Federal Research Funding

- Concerted lobbying by the University and its sister institutions had resulted in the federal government allocating a much-needed increase of \$95 million to tri-council grant funding.
- These additional funds would be distributed as follows:
 - Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR): \$30 million
 - Natural Sciences and Engineering Research of Council of Canada (NSERC) : \$30 million
 - Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC): \$16 million
 - Research Support Fund for indirect costs of research: \$19 million
- Other research funding that would benefit U of T would include support to Genome Canada, Brain Canada, and the International Space Station, among others.
- \$2 billion would be invested in research infrastructure funding.
- The University would continue to strategically position itself to leverage continued federal research support.

The Colleges of the University of Toronto and the Toronto School of Theology (TST)

Professor Regehr drew on the University's long history to highlight the relationship between the federated universities and constituent colleges of the University of Toronto, and the Toronto School of Theology.

3. New Graduate Program: Conjoint MA in Theological Studies

Professor Smyth provided the highlights of the proposed graduate program in Theological Studies with the Toronto School of Theology. Professor Hayes lauded the consultative process for the approval of the new program and reiterated the strong relationship that had been developed between the University and the TST over a number of years.

Some points raised in the discussion included clarity on the term 'conjoint'; the flow of funds from the Provincial government for conjoint programs; and the nature of the faith-based programs offered through TST.

Professor Regehr said that applicants to the conjoint programs were aware of the unique relationship between the University and the TST. Applications to conjoint programs were made to the appropriate TST academic unit. The University and the TST jointly conferred degrees; conjoint programs were governed by the University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP), including the process for approving new programs and reviewing existing ones.

Professor Regehr noted that the flow of Provincial funds for conjoint programs was channelled through the University.

3. New Graduate Program: Conjoint MA in Theological Studies (continued)

Professor Hayes said that the TST and its seven colleges primarily offered programs in denominations of Christianity. However, over the course of the previous five to ten years, curricula had been expanded to include inter-faith content involving Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism.

On motion a duly moved, seconded and carried

YOUR BOARD APPROVED

THAT, subject to confirmation by the Executive Committee

THAT the proposed conjoint M.A. in Theological Studies, as described in the proposal from the Toronto School of Theology dated March 3, 2016, be approved effective for the academic year 2017-18.

4. Reviews of Academic Programs and Units – Semi-Annual Report

a. Follow-up Reports on Reviews

Professor Smyth said that the Committee on Academic Programs and Policy (AP&P) received a one-year follow-up report for Christianity and Culture programs at the Faculty of Arts and Science. The follow-up report had focused on curriculum renewal, faculty complement, student recruitment, and the outcome of program retreats held by the core faculty.

Professor Smyth said that Professor Locke Rowe, Vice-Provost, Graduate Research and Education, had reported that since the previous review in 2013-14, the Faculty of Arts and Science and the Program Director of the Christianity and Culture programs had undertaken a number of changes to the Specialist program and a review of the major program. They had discussed faculty resource requirements, increased recruitment efforts, and held four faculty retreats in 2015. There had been no follow-up questions by the members of the AP&P.

A member sought clarity on the flow of resources between divisions and college-based programs. Professor Regehr noted that college-based programs are offered by the Faculty of Arts and Science (FAS) in association with the colleges. Issues related to resources were considered in a series of discussions between FAS and the respective colleges.

b. Review of Academic Programs and Units

Professor Smyth said that AP&P considered a total of twelve reviews.

- Two of the reviews had been commissioned by the Vice-President and Provost:
 - *University of Toronto Mississauga (Provostial Review - non-UTQAP)*
 - *Faculty of Music and its programs (Provostial Review)*

4. **Reviews of Academic Programs and Units – Semi-Annual Report** (continued)

- The other ten reviews had been commissioned by the respective Deans (Decanal Reviews):
 - Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering
 - *Institute for Aerospace Studies and its programs*
 - *Division of Engineering Science and its programs*
 - Faculty of Medicine
 - *Rehabilitation Sciences Institute and its programs*
 - Faculty of Arts and Science
 - *Commerce Program [Joint with Joseph L. Rotman School of Management]*
 - *Centre for Comparative Literature and its programs with Literature and Critical Theory undergraduate program*
 - *Diaspora and Transnational Studies undergraduate program*
 - *Department of the History of Art and its programs*
 - *International Relations undergraduate program*
 - *Urban Studies undergraduate program*
 - University of Toronto Scarborough
 - *Department of Philosophy and its programs*

b. Review of Academic Programs and Units (continued)

Professor Smyth said that AP&P had had a thorough and engaged discussion of each of the reviews. The themes raised in the group of reviews had reflected previous reviews considered by the Committee. In particular, the themes included the excellence of the University's research reputation and the impressive body of scholarship produced by its faculty, the quality of its programs, and the talent and high calibre of its students.

Professor Smyth noted that in addition, Cycle 5's set of reviews had highlighted programs' innovative, interdisciplinary curricular approaches and valuable links to professions and industry, such as the work of the *Rehabilitation Sciences Institute* (Medicine) and *Urban Studies* (FAS).

Professor Rowe had commented that the reviews had noted areas for development. These included:

- strengthening relationships between units to support academic program collaborations;
- making strategic investments in the faculty complement; and
- refining curricula to meet student needs or changing disciplinary landscapes.

Overall, the *Reviews* were quite positive and had identified many opportunities for the units and programs – the Deans and their representatives were grateful for the opportunity to be part of the Review process. The Committee also felt that administrative responses were thoughtful and fulfilled the spirit of the recommendations received. Professor Smyth highlighted the following examples:

- At UTSC's Department of Philosophy, the reading group had been impressed with the Dean's response, and had noted that as a new department, they (the Department) were to be commended on the program's success.

4. Reviews of Academic Programs and Units – Semi-Annual Report (continued)

- The reading group had noted the reviewers' overall positive impression of UTM and although it was a ~~difficult and~~ complex review, Professor Hannah-Moffat had been commended for her response – it was very thorough and acknowledged ~~all of~~ the issues identified by the reviewers.
- For the Commerce Program, the joint administrative response that was submitted by the Deans of FAS and Rotman highlighted the collaborative approach and commitment to discuss the issues raised in the review through an *ad hoc* working group – again, with a goal to improve the undergraduate student experience.

Professor Smyth encouraged members to read the summaries and Dean's responses in the Compendium of Reviews. She noted that AP&P had requested follow-up reports for the following:

- University of Toronto Mississauga (Provostial Review - non-UTQAP) in one year (with the option to request a second one-year report) from the incoming Vice-Principal, Academic and Dean that would outline steps taken to respond to the issues and concerns raised by the reviewers.
- Faculty of Music and its programs (Provostial Review) in one year regarding the completion of the strategic academic plan and its implementation, including the prioritized implementation of the issues raised in the External Review.
- International Relations undergraduate Program, Faculty of Arts and Science in one-year regarding the steps taken to address the concerns identified in the review including issues around resourcing arrangements and curriculum design and delivery.
- Commerce Program - Faculty of Arts and Science (FAS) joint with Joseph L. Rotman School of Management (RSM) in one year that outlined steps taken to address the issues raised by the reviewers regarding the admission process, organizational structure, student morale and faculty teaching assignments.

In closing her remarks, Professor Smyth thanked the members of AP&P for their dedicated engagement with the reviews.

Professor Nelson added that the reviews had stimulated a broad discussions, including how to respond to changing disciplines. Professor Nelson said that another outcome of the reviews could be to inform and guide units as programs evolved to provide an even higher quality of student experience.

A member asked about the pressures on tenure-track candidates with commitments at both UTM and the St. George campuses to fulfill their duties. Professor Regehr said that many arts and science units had a tri-campus structure. While this created some challenges in terms of individual commitments and coordination, it also provided opportunities to teach at smaller campuses and collaborate with researchers on different campuses. A member commented that tenure committees had evolved in their composition, being comprised in many instances of a majority of colleagues with primary appointments at UTM or UTSC.

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion duly moved, seconded, and carried

YOUR BOARD APPROVED

THAT the consent agenda be adopted.

4. Approval of the Report of the Previous Meeting

Report Number 202, from the meeting of March 17, 2016, was approved.

5. Business Arising from the Report of the Previous Meeting

There was no business arising from Report Number 202.

6. Items for Information

The following items were received by the Board for information:

- (a) Report Number 179 of the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs – March 30, 2016
- (b) Report Number 222 of the Agenda Committee – April 12, 2016

7. Date of the Next Meeting

The Chair reminded members that the next Board meeting was scheduled for Monday, May 30, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Council chamber.

8. Other Business

The Chair informed members that they would receive an Evaluation Survey following the May 30, 2016 meeting of the Board. Feedback from members would be useful and important in planning the Board meetings for the upcoming year. The Chair asked members to spend a few minutes to complete the Evaluation Survey once they received it.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Secretary

Chair

April 25, 2016