

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO MISSISSAUGA CAMPUS COUNCIL
REPORT NUMBER 18 OF THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

NOVEMBER 23, 2016

To the Campus Council,
University of Toronto Mississauga

Your Committee reports that it held a meeting on November 23, 2016 at 4:10 p.m. in the Council Chambers, William G. Davis Building, at which the following were present:

Professor Judith Poë, Chair
Professor Angela Lange, Vice-Chair
Professor Ulli Krull, Interim Vice-President &
Principal
Professor Amrita Daniere, Vice-Principal
Academic and Dean
Professor Bryan Stewart, Vice-Principal,
Research
Professor James Allen
Professor Gordon Anderson
Ms Celina Baines
Professor Liza Blake
Professor Ron Buliung
Professor Tracey Bowen
Ms Diane Crocker, Registrar
Ms Salma Fakhry
Professor Norm Farb
Professor Claudiu Gradinaru
Ms Elaine Goettler
Ms Shelley Hawrychuk
Professor Rosa Hong
Professor Nathan Innocente
Professor Stuart Kamenetsky
Ms Renu Kanga Fonseca
Professor Heather Miller
Professor Kent Moore
Professor Emmanuel Nikiema
Mr. Jay Nirula
Ms Farah Noori
Professor Andrea Olive
Dr. Christoph Richter
Professor Manfred Schneider
Professor Joan Simalchik

Professor Alison Syme
Professor Mihkel Tombak
Dr. Laura Taylor
Mr. Glenn Thompson
Professor Anthony Wensley
Mr. Jose Wilson
Mr. Ian Whyte
Professor Liye Xie
Dr. Daniel Zingaro

Non-Voting Assessors:

Mr. Mark Overton, Dean of Student Affairs
Ms Yen Du, Program and Curriculum Officer

Regrets:

Mr. Anshul Bhatnagar
Professor Aurel Braun
Mr. Zakk Dodge
Ms Renu Kanga Fonseca
Professor Sanja Hinic-Frlog
Professor Kajri Jain
Ms Kristina Kaneff
Professor Konstantin Khanin
Professor Anna Korteweg
Ms Jennifer Park
Professor Diana Raffman
Ms Caitlyn Seale
Professor Rebecca Wittman
Professor Kathi Wilson
Professor Xiaodong Zhu

In Attendance:

Ms Nour Alideeb, President, UTMSU
Professor Gueorgui Kambourov

Secretariat:

Ms Cindy Ferencz Hammond, Director of Governance, Assistant Secretary of the Governing Council
Ms Mariam Ali, Governance Coordinator, UTM

1. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and provided an update on the 2017 Elections, noting that the nominations for elected positions on Academic Affairs Committee would open on Wednesday, January 4 and close on Friday, January 13, 2017. Once filled, these terms will begin on July 1, 2017. The Chair advised members to contact Ms Cindy Ferencz Hammond, Deputy Returning Officer if they had any inquiries.

2. UTM Vision Statement

The Chair informed members that the Draft Vision Statement had been jointly authored by the Interim Vice President and Principal, Ulli Krull, Vice Principal, Research, Bryan Stewart and Dean, Professor Daniere. She invited Professor Amrita Daniere, Vice-Principal Academic and Dean to present¹ the UTM Draft Vision Statement for discussion and feedback from the Committee. Professor Daniere informed members that the initial draft had been distributed to the UTM community in late September and since then two feedback sessions and six focus group sessions had been held. There had also been detailed, written feedback received from approximately 15 groups and individuals. Themes that had surfaced from consultation were: Communication, Community and Creativity, along with Equity and Diversity. There had been significant interest in campus-wide communication initiatives, the concept of sustainability, and further engaging with the wider Mississauga community, while also showcasing the diversity on campus. Highlights of the Committee's discussion is summarized below:

- In reference to a specific sentence in the Draft Vision, which stated an aspiration to be a premier institution, a member noted that U of T was already consistently ranked as one of the world's top ranking institutions. Professor Daniere agreed and noted that this had been echoed through consultation as well and would likely be removed in the final draft.
- The length of the vision statement was discussed. Members commented that the statement should be abbreviated in order to be simple and concise, by stating why the institution existed, which was to provide excellent teaching and research. Professor Daniere noted that there was a tension between keeping the statement short and in capturing the individuality of the institution, which was the purpose of this exercise. Though efforts would be made to shorten it, the vision statement would still need to encapsulate the UTM identity.
- Members discussed whether the draft statement was a vision and mission statement, as opposed to a strategic plan. To this, the Dean responded that the sections in the vision statement and the accompanying material were meant to enhance the understanding of the vision statement as a standalone item, and provide context. As the consultation plan had indicated, the strategic planning process was a distinct phase, which would begin in January, 2017.

The Chair commended Professor Daniere for starting this important discussion and consultation with the UTM community.

¹ A copy of the Draft Vision presentation is attached as Attachment A

3. Reviews of Academic Programs and Units

The Chair noted that the Committee would receive for information and discussion, reviews of academic programs and units consistent with the University of Toronto Quality Assurance process. The reviews were also forwarded to the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) for consideration. The Chair invited Professor Daniere to present the annual report on external reviews of departments and programs for the year 2015-16². Professor Daniere informed Committee members that external reviews occurred at intervals of no more than 8 years and were supervised by the provincial Quality Council which was responsible for the auditing process. The role of the reviewers was to determine the quality of the program or department and make recommendations for areas of opportunity for improvement.

For 2015-16, the Department of Language Studies, Department of Mathematics and Computational Sciences and Department of Visual Studies were reviewed. Additionally, there was a follow-up report for the Department of English & Drama.

Professor Daniere highlighted the positive elements of the Department of Language Studies review, which included experiential learning tools, strong outreach programs, a collegial work environment with good leadership and high quality, popular programs with high-achieving students. The areas of opportunity included the following: examining the frequency of course offerings, supporting existing programs for faculty and research output, maintain current outreach programs, consolidate programs under four disciplines namely French, Italian, Linguistics and Teaching and Learning. In response, the number of courses offered was increased by reducing the number of courses offered in rotation, the addition of 5 positions as well as an ongoing search for a tenure track hire, and the outreach activities will be maintained. The department also plans to propose new minor programs and faculty hires in areas of Chinese and Spanish.

Professor Daniere informed members of the positive elements of the Department of Mathematical and Computational Sciences (MCS) review, which included its impressive programming, high teaching quality and levels of student satisfaction, research records of faculty, impressive morale and collegiality as well as praiseworthy efforts of faculty advisors mentoring junior faculty. The areas of opportunity included the following: there had been significant enrolment growth which created pressure to increase class sizes and led to a shortage of research faculty and increased dependence on sessional and short term instructors specifically for Computer Science and Statistics, and high teaching loads for teaching stream faculty. In response, the Office of the Registrar who administers admission has been asked to consult directly with the MCS department, six new research stream faculty members were hired and there were two full time teaching stream and three research stream position faculty searches that are currently ongoing. The teaching loads of teaching stream faculty were already reduced from 4.0 FCE to 3.5 FCE and credit was given for coordination of multi-section courses.

Professor Daniere outlined the positive elements for the Department of Visual Studies, noting that the programs represented a good balance between tradition and innovation, extensive learning outcomes consistent with other Humanities and Arts programs, and a unique Art and Art History program. The areas of opportunity included the following: improvements in classroom lighting, expansion of program offerings to include curatorial studies, a faculty complement plan that includes cinema studies and Islamic art and architecture, as well as increased support for the Blackwood Gallery. In response, two large lecture halls were refurbished for Cinema Studies courses and with new construction the DVS classes would be able to use better equipped classrooms going forward. The department was currently exploring the development of a Cinema Studies major and looking at faculty hires in Cinema Studies and Islamic

² A copy of the External Review presentation is attached as Attachment B.

Art, and had already proposed a Certificate in Curatorial Studies. The Blackwood Gallery's staff complement was increased from 1.6 to 3.0 FTE and funds were allocated for equipment and infrastructure upgrades during the upcoming year.

As part of a follow up on the Department of English & Drama follow up report, AP&P had requested actions taken to address sexist incidents, and issues of gender equality and diversity that had been identified by the reviewers. In response a presentation was arranged by UTM's Equity and Diversity Officer and delivered to the teaching faculty in the Department. Since becoming the new Department Chair, Professor Gillespie had also undertaken a comprehensive restructuring of UTM English and Drama, done in consultation with the previous Department Chair, as well as faculty and staff and was designed to facilitate consensus-based decision making. An Equity and Diversity Committee was established and a number of new courses were designed for the 2017-18 year which addressed equity and diversity issues. Professor Gillespie also acted as a facilitator at the Women in Science & Engineering Leadership Institute (WISELI) workshops on implicit bias and hiring for excellence and diversity which was organized by the Office of the Provost. Professor Daniere noted that AP&P was very pleased by the response to the follow-up report and that none of the three reviews for this year were asked for follow-ups.

4. Minor Undergraduate Curriculum Changes: Humanities, Sciences and Social Sciences

The Chair invited Professor Daniere to speak to the item. Professor Daniere first explained the process by which curriculum reports and changes arrive to the Academic Affairs Committee. The Decanal divisional curriculum committees of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Sciences met in September and October. Each curriculum committee was appointed a Committee-Chair by the Vice-Principal Academic and Dean. Each academic unit whose curricular changes were discussed by the committee was represented by the unit's chair or director, or designate, including the unit's undergraduate advisor. Representatives from the Office of the Registrar attended as did the Program and Curriculum Officer from the Office of the Dean. Consultation with students occurred at the level of the academic unit. Professor Daniere thanked the curriculum committees, specifically the chairs: Professor Gueorgui Kambourov (Social Sciences), Dr. Monika Havelka (Sciences) and Professor Joan Simalchik (Humanities), for their hard work and careful attention to detail in leading the work of the curriculum committees. Professor Daniere also thanked Mr. Anuar Rodrigues, the Office of the Dean's Acting Program and Curriculum Officer for his many contributions to the process.

Professor Daniere explained that the Curriculum Reports were comprised of Major and Minor curriculum changes. In the context of the University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP), Major changes involved new programs (Minors, Majors, and Specialists), closure of programs, major modifications to existing programs, the creation of transcript notations, and certificates. The remainder of the curricular changes would have significant positive impact on a cumulative basis, but were considered Minor changes in the context of the UTQAP. Professor Daniere indicated that resource implications for various course changes and new course additions were noted in the curriculum reports and were discussed and approved by the Office of the Dean. New courses that did not require resources would be taught by existing or new faculty. All library resources were discussed and approved by the Hazel McCallion Academic Learning Centre (HMALC).

Professor Simalchik advised that the Humanities Curriculum Committee reviewed a number of minor programmatic changes, as well as new courses that would capture the interests and strengths of existing faculty and new hires in various departments, and the need to provide units with more flexibility in determining course offerings based on teaching availability of faculty. Professor Simalchik informed members that two programs in the Department of Language Studies had been approved to be

administratively suspended, the Minor in Francophone Studies and the Specialist in French and Italian. The suspensions had been suggested by reviewers of the Department's external review in February 2016.

Professor Daniere informed members that notable changes from the Sciences Divisional Curriculum Committee report included 41 minor program changes, the addition of courses, along with several general course changes. Across all Departments, the 19 new courses would increase course options for student and reflected the expertise and interests of new faculty hires as well as new areas of study proposed by existing faculty. Professor Daniere noted that the Astronomy major program in the Department of Chemical and Physical Sciences had increased the program requirements from 8.5 credits to 9.0 credits by adding the required course PHY242H5 (Thermal Physics and Fluid Mechanics) in the second year. In response to a member's question, Ms Diane Crocker, Registrar advised that curriculum changes were updated for current students in the academic calendar but that prospective students would be looking at the calendar for the incoming year.

Professor Kambourov described the changes proposed by the Social Sciences Divisional Curriculum Committee consisted of minor changes that affected 27 programs, including 2 minor, 7 majors and 18 specialist programs. The most noteworthy changes pertain to Management minor and specialist programs, where starting from 2019, students applying to these programs would be required to have completed the math course, MAT133. Other program changes involved updates to course requirements, such as that for Economics, now adding that a 63% was required for MAT133 in its Economics and Political Science Specialist program in order to clarify the requirements for the program. In addition, Anthropology was proposing 4 new half courses that will provide students with the opportunity for experiential involvement and Sociology was proposing 9 new half courses that will broaden the Department's course offerings in several areas, such as criminal justice organizations, the sociology of disasters, and gender studies. A member commented on the addition of MAT133 as a program requirement, stating that this requirement change made it more difficult for students who wished to pursue business but did not excel in math. Professor Mihkel Tombak, Chair of the Department of Management stated that there were pedagogical reasons for the addition of this program requirement, and that students who were in this program went on to take finance courses and required this course knowledge. Ms Crocker added that the admission requirements for entry into Management and Commerce programs now included Grade 12 Advanced Functions and Calculus, not just Data management which would better prepare students for such courses.

On motion duly made, seconded and carried,

YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED,

THAT the proposed Humanities undergraduate curriculum changes for the 2017-18 academic year, as detailed in the respective curriculum reports, be approved.

THAT the proposed Sciences undergraduate curriculum changes for the 2017-18 academic year, as detailed in the respective curriculum reports, be approved.

THAT the proposed Social Sciences undergraduate curriculum changes for the 2017-18 academic year, as detailed in the respective curriculum reports, be approved.

5. Minor Modification: Certificate Program in Curatorial Studies, Visual Studies

The Chair informed members that the Committee was responsible for major and minor modifications to existing programs. She then invited Professor Alison Syme, Chair of the Department of Visual Studies to present this item. Professor Syme stated that the creation of this Certificate was recommended by the

reviewers of the Department's external review in February 2016 and would build on existing strengths at UTM by offering a focused yet interdisciplinary program of study. In response to a question, Professor Syme clarified that the Certificate was completed in conjunction with a specialist or major.

On motion duly made, seconded and carried,

YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED,

THAT the proposed Certificate Program in Curatorial Studies, offered by the Department of Visual Studies, as recommended by the Vice-Principal Academic & Dean, Professor Amrita Daniere, and described in the proposal dated October 24, 2016, effective September 1, 2017, be approved.

6. Other Business

The Chair raised an issue that had been brought to her attention by some upper year students. They had indicated that when they voted in favour of a Fall Reading Week, they had not realized that it would result in a much shortened study period before exams. They are now questioning their support of the Fall Reading Week.

7. Assessors' Report

Professor Daniere advised members that the final draft of the Vision Statement would be made available on January 2, 2017 for comment to members of the UTM Community. The statement would be available for feedback for several weeks, after which if there was general agreement the strategic planning exercise would begin immediately and a consultation schedule will be presented at that point.

She highlighted upcoming items which will be considered at the next meeting of the Committee which included the Minor in Business, Science, and Entrepreneurship, Management as well as Program Requirement and course changes for the Masters of Management of Innovation.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly moved, seconded, and carried

YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED

THAT the consent agenda be adopted and that Item 9 - Report of the Previous Meeting, be approved.

8. Report of the Previous Meeting: Report 17 – September 14, 2016

9. Business Arising from the Report of the Previous Meeting

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

10. Date of the Next Meeting – Monday, January 9, 2017 at 4:10 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Secretary
December 1, 2016

Chair