

THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

REPORT NUMBER 213 OF THE ACADEMIC BOARD

January 25, 2018

To the Governing Council,
University of Toronto

Your Board reports that it held a meeting on Thursday, January 25, 2018, at 4:10 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Simcoe Hall.

Present:

Andrea M. Sass-Kortsak, Chair	Nicholas C. Everett	Don McLean
Suzanne Akbari	Zhong-Ping Feng	Alexander Mulligan
Benjamin Alarie	Vivek Goel	Sioban Nelson
Catherine Amara	J. Connie Guberman	Mama Nii Owoo
Cristina H. Amon	Richard Hegele	Emmanuel Nikiema
Laura Anderson	Thomas M. Hurka	Michele Peterson-Badali
Aarthi Ashok	Edsel Ing	Helene Polatajko-Howell
Ryan Balot	Ira Jacobs	Michael J.H. Ratcliffe
Joshua Barker	Glen A. Jones	Reinhart Reithmeier
Heather S. Boon	Allan S. Kaplan	Trevor Rodgers
Adalsteinn Brown	Jeannie Kim	Suzan Schneeweiss
Jasmine Carter	Ronald H. Kluger	Melinda Scott
Samantha Chang	Sally G. Krigstin	Hugh D. Segal
P.C. Choo	Cara Krmpotich	Anne Harriet Simmonds
Maria Cuervo	Ernest W.N. Lam	David R. Smith
Amrita Daniere	Fei-Fei Liu	Salvatore Spadafora
James W. Davis	Ben Liu	Markus Stock
Luc F. De Nil	Scott Mabury	Eric Stubbs
Raisa B. Deber	Maureen MacDonald	Twesh Upadhyaya
Arina Dmitrenko	Jan K. Mahrt-Smith	Njoki Wane
David Dubins	Paul Malozewski	Robert Zhi Cheng Xu
Wendy M. Duff	Thomas Mathien	

REGRETS:

Nicholas Terpstra, Vice-Chair	William A. Gough	Brian S. Silverman
Donald C. Ainslie	Zabeen Hirji	Richard M. Sommer
Ramona Alaggia	Linda Johnston	Andrew M. Spence
Dwayne Benjamin	Linda M. Kohn	Vincent Tropepe
Markus Bussmann	Mohan Matthen	Wendy Wang
Joseph R. Desloges	Faye Mishna	Bruce Winter
Tara Goldstein	Lacra Pavel	Robert M. Wright
Andrea Gonzalez	Cheryl Regehr	Emeli (Li) Zhang

Non-Voting Assessors:

Susan McCahan, Vice-Provost, Innovations in Undergraduate Education
Trevor Rodgers, Executive Director, Planning and Budget

Joan Griffin, Secretary

In Attendance:

Lynne Alexandrova, Graduate Student, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education
Max Li, Undergraduate Student, Woodsworth College
Adian Swirsky, Undergraduate Student, University College
Archana Sridhar, Assistant Provost
Sandy Welsh, Vice-Provost, Students

1. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed members and guests to the meeting. She noted that there would be a full agenda with several items for approval and encouraged that members participate meaningfully in the discussion.

2. Report of the Vice-President and ProvostAcademic Disruption

Professor Sioban Nelson, as Provost's designate, reported that on December 8, 2017, an additional Academic Disruption was declared at the University of Toronto Mississauga as a result of the strike at Sheridan College, which affected one additional joint program course (CCT250H5) taught at Sheridan. The disruption would allow for the instructor to implement changes that had been discussed with the students, but not voted on within the timelines required under the *Grading Practices Policy*.

Strategic Mandate Agreement, 2017-2020 (SMA2)

Trevor Rodgers, Executive Director, Planning and Budget, presented on the recently released *Strategic Mandate Agreement, 2017-2020 (SMA2)* between the University and the Provincial Government. He noted the continued importance that differentiation would play among Ontario universities, and that the key elements included in the University of Toronto SMA2 were graduate student enrolment expansion, changes to the funding formula, and the introduction of an enrolment corridor.

Graduate student spaces at the University would increase by 631 Masters Level and 198 Doctoral Level positions. The only spaces that were unfunded included those in 'pipeline programs' or still in development; these will be included in our case for funding in SMA3 in 2020. Mr. Rodgers noted that further international graduate enrolment announcements were anticipated when the Province announced its international strategy.

Under the new enrolment corridor, it was reported that the University would be expected to reduce domestic undergraduate enrolment and maintain that level throughout the SMA2 period, as no additional funding for undergraduate growth would be available. Undergraduate enrolments at University of Toronto Mississauga and University Toronto Scarborough would remain at current levels, and the St. George campus would reduce domestic student enrolments by 1,800 FTE (Full-Time Equivalents) over the course of the agreement.

The \$64M differentiation envelope would be comprised of a portion of existing enrolment funding, as well as existing performance-related grants (Quality Fund and KPI Grant). This baseline differentiation funding would not be at risk during SMA2, but would be tied to performance metrics in SMA3. Draft performance metrics are in place for the SMA2 period across five priority areas: Student Experience; Innovation in Teaching & Learning Excellence; Access & Equity; Research Excellence & Impact; and Innovation, Economic Development & Community Engagement.

In response to members' questions regarding metrics, Professor Goel noted that a working group would be established by the Province to look into research metric issues. He further noted that the University would be looking to maintain its place within the rankings, and would continue to emphasize the University's research impact. In response to a question regarding international doctoral enrolment, it was noted that each unit faced different circumstances with respect to recruitment of international PhD students, and the tuition reduction for that group would likely lead to enhanced opportunities within the institutional targets set for domestic and international enrolment.

Budget Model Review

Trevor Rodgers reported that the University had implemented a 'new' budget model in 2006-2007 and that the last comprehensive review in 2010-11 made only minor revisions, as the model had been working well. The current review would focus on five pillars reflective of the University's academic priorities: Strategic Mandate Agreement, Interdivisional Teaching, Alternative Funding Sources, Cost Efficiencies, and Tri-Campus. It was noted that some groups have already begun their work and that they were being informed by work that was taking place in other areas, such as the Interdivisional Teaching Group that started work in the fall. The Cost Efficiencies Group would look at ways to rethink how support services can be shared effectively and efficiently within the divisions and shared service portfolios. There were no questions on this item.

3. University-Mandated Leave of Absence Policy

The Chair noted that the Academic Board would consider this policy in concurrence with University Affairs Board and that requests had been received from non-members to address the Board on this item.

Professor Sandy Welsh, Vice-Provost, Students presented on the changes to the *University-Mandated Leave of Absence Policy* since it last appeared in draft format at the Academic Board. She noted that the draft *Policy* was intended for use in very limited instances where there was reason to believe that the behaviour was related to serious mental health or other similar issues, and where the *Code of Student Conduct* and other policies were not appropriate options. She reiterated that it would always be preferable to pursue other options before implementing the University-Mandated Leave of Absence protocol. Professor Welsh noted the instances where feedback from students, faculty and staff had resulted in modified and strengthened language, including the student's right to autonomy (especially where it pertains to their health needs), changes to the Student Support Team, the appeals process, and that the leave would not be noted on a student's transcript.

In response to members' questions regarding the scenarios identified in the draft *Policy*, Professor Welsh noted that as a non-disciplinary code, the policy would not mirror the language of the *Code of Student Conduct*, but rather used the Ontario Mental Health Act as a model. With regard to questions about scenario two in the draft policy regarding essential academic activities, she noted that some students who had experienced serious mental health issues had reached out during the consultation to express the wish that a leave policy would have been available for them in the past.

Three non-members were granted speaking privileges at the meeting. Each spoke from their personal perspective and had encouraged members to consider the impact of the Policy.

Lynne Alexandrova, PhD candidate at OISE, advocated for a scholarly approach to addressing mental health issues, in order to decisively move toward a tri-campus, robust community-building approach for the prevention of mental health issues, based on respect for the dignity/autonomy of mentally vulnerable people.

Aidan Swirsky, undergraduate student, expressed concern with the consultation process and encouraged a further expanded consultation that engaged the already mobilized grassroots student organizations interested in mental health issues and this policy's development and implementation.

Undergraduate student Max Lee also commented, stating that despite postponing the policy's approval earlier in the academic year to expand consultations, there remained room for improvement and greater representation of the student voice.

On motion duly moved, seconded and carried

YOUR BOARD RECOMMENDED

THAT the Academic Board concur with the prospective recommendation of the University Affairs Board.

THAT the proposed *University-Mandated Leave of Absence Policy* be approved effective February 15, 2018.

In total, five members voted against the policy. Thomas Mathien, Anne Simmonds and Michele Peterson-Badali wished to have their votes against the Policy recorded in the Report.

4. Revisions to the Copyright Policy

Professor Ernest Lam, Chair of Committee on Academic Policy and Programs, reported to the Board on the Revisions to the *Copyright Policy*. He noted that the revisions would better reflect current University of Toronto practice regarding titles, definitions and business processes. It was further noted that the revisions harmonized with those in the *Inventions Policy* and would better protect the work of an individual.

No questions were received.

On motion duly moved, seconded and carried

YOUR BOARD RECOMMENDED

THAT the proposed *Copyright Policy*, which replaces the *Copyright Policy* approved by the Governing Council on May 30, 2007, be approved effective February 15, 2018.

5. Academic Plans

Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE)

Professor David Dubins, Chair of the Planning and Budget Committee, reported on the Academic Plans from the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering and the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) for information. He noted that Planning and Budget Committee received the reports at its meeting on January 10, 2018 and considered the process undertaken in formulating the plans. In response to a question from a member regarding the Faculty of Applied Sciences and Engineering plan to operationalize its increased focus on mental health, Dean Cristina Amon indicated that an implementation plan would be forthcoming with specific actions to support the achievement each of the plan's goals, as well as metrics to measure success.

6. Proposal to Create a Bachelor of Information, Faculty of Information

Professor Lam reported that the Committee for Academic Policy and Programs had received the report to create a Bachelor of Information degree at its meeting on January 11, 2018. The proposal was to create a two-year second-entry program in the Faculty of Information beginning in the Fall 2019.

In response to a member's questions, Professor Wendy Duff, Dean of the Faculty of Information indicated that only 25 students would be enrolled in each year of the program and that it blended humanities, social science and information management in an intensive program that would be unique at the University. She further noted that a space inventory of the iSchool had been undertaken and underutilized space had been identified that would be used creatively for this program. It was also explained that the Bachelor of Information degree nomenclature was

intentional and more appropriate than a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science, as this nomenclature reflected the degree program's unique content, and would link the proposed new program with the graduate program currently offered by the Faculty. Based on the Faculty's experience with the positive recognition of the Master of Information degree, it was anticipated that future employers would readily appreciate the skill set of Bachelor of Information graduates.

On motion duly moved, seconded and carried

YOUR BOARD RECOMMENDED

THAT subject to confirmation by the Executive Committee,

THAT the proposed Bachelor of Information, which will confer the degree BI, as described in the proposal from the Faculty of Information dated October 24, 2017, be approved effective September 1, 2019.

7. Institutional Strategic Research Plan 2018-2023

Professor Vivek Goel, Vice-President, Research and Innovation, presented on the draft *Institutional Strategic Research Plan (ISRP)* for information. He highlighted the changes made to the structure of the report for this publication cycle and identified that the key areas of University research strength in 2012 remain current. Professor Goel noted that this is the fourth plan that would be published and that it serves as a document and roadmap to both internal and external audiences for the University.

8. University of Toronto CRC Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan

Professor Vivek Goel, Vice-President, Research and Innovation, presented the *University of Toronto CRC Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan* for information. As part of the Canada Research Chair (CRC) Program review, the CRC Program had stipulated that all competitions for CRCs must be transparent and open, that data on Federally Designated Groups (FDGs) must be collected from applicant pools, that targets be set for the FDGs, and that an institutional Action Plan to meet targets and to foster equity, diversity and inclusion for CRCs must be developed.

The Vice-President, Research and Innovation convened the VPRI Equity and Diversity in Research and Innovation Working Group that has among other activities developed the *University of Toronto CRC Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan* as well as a series of recommendations that would be announced in Spring 2018.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly moved, seconded and carried

YOUR BOARD APPROVED

THAT the consent agenda be adopted and items approved

9. Revised Divisional Teaching Evaluation Guidelines

The Divisional Teaching Evaluation Guidelines for the Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education and the Faculty of Information were received for information.

10. Constitutional Revision: Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing

On motion duly moved, seconded and carried

YOUR BOARD RECOMMENDED

THAT subject to confirmation by the Executive Committee

THAT the proposed amended *Constitution of the Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing*, which was recommended for approval by the Council on November 1, 2017 be approved, effective February 7, 2018.

11. Constitutional Revision: Faculty of Arts and Science

On motion duly moved, seconded and carried

YOUR BOARD RECOMMENDED

THAT Subject to confirmation by the Executive Committee

THAT the proposed amended *Constitution of the Faculty of Arts and Science*, which was recommended for approval by the Council on December 13, 2017 be approved, effective February 7, 2018.

12. Report of the Previous Meeting: Report Number 212

Report Number 212, from the meeting of November 23, 2017 was approved.

13. Business Arising from the Previous Meeting

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

14. Items for Information

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Members received the following reports for information:

- a) [Report Number 237 of the Agenda Committee](#) – December 18, 2017
- b) Report Number 179 of the Planning and Budget Committee – January 10, 2018
- c) Report Number 188 of the Academic Policy and Programs Committee – January 11, 2018

15. Date of the Next Meeting – Thursday, March 15, 2018

The Chair reminded members that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 4:10 p.m.

16. Other Business

The Chair reminded members that the January 2018 Status Change Report was posted on the Academic Board website for information.

The meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Secretary

January 26, 2018

Chair