

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO SCARBOROUGH CAMPUS COUNCIL

**REPORT NUMBER 9 OF THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**January 8, 2015**

To the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus Council, University of Toronto Scarborough,

Your Committee reports that it met on Thursday, January 8, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Arts and Administration Building, with the following members present:

**Present:**

Ms Kathy Fellowes (Chair)  
Dr. Christopher Ollson (Vice Chair)  
Professor Bruce Kidd, Vice-  
President and Principal  
Professor Rick Halpern Vice-  
Principal and Dean (Academic)  
Professor Malcolm Campbell, Vice  
Principal Research  
Ms Maryam Ali  
Dr. Corinne Beauquis  
Professor Christine Bolus-Reichert  
Professor Nick Cheng  
Dr. Curtis Cole  
Professor Suzanne Erb  
Professor David J. Fleet  
Professor John A. Hannigan  
Professor Clare Hasenkampf  
Professor Matthew J. Hoffmann  
Mr. Jerry Yu Jien  
Professor Madhavi Kale  
Mr. John Kapageridis  
Ms Whitney Kemble  
Dr. Elaine Khoo  
Dr. Sarah D. King  
Professor Patricia Landolt  
Ms Nancy Lee  
Mr. Andrew Leung  
Professor Nathan R. Lovejoy  
Professor Andrew C. Mason  
Mr. Moataz S. Mohamed  
Ms Susan Murray

Ms Victoria Owen  
Professor Mary T. Silcox  
Professor Grace Skogstad  
Mr. Selim Younes  
Professor David Zweig

**Non-Voting Assessors:**

Ms Jennifer Bramer  
Ms Annette Knott  
Mr. Desmond Pouyat

**Secretariat:**

Mr. Anwar Kazimi  
Ms Rena Parsan

**Regrets:**

Mr. Syed W. Ahmed  
Dr. Johann Bayer  
Professor William R. Bowen  
Professor George S. Cree  
Professor Neal Dolan  
Professor William A. Gough  
Professor Benj Hellie  
Ms Noor Khan  
Professor Heinz-Bernhard Kraatz  
Professor Philip Kremer  
Professor Michael J. Lambek  
Dr. Karen Lyda McCrindle  
Professor John Robert Miron  
Professor Matthias Niemeier  
Mr. George Quan Fun  
Ms Charmaine Louise C. Ramirez

Dr. Jayeeta Sharma  
Professor Andre Sorensen  
Ms Tisha Tan

Ms Lynn Tucker  
Mr. Lukas Zibaitis

**In attendance:**

Ms Lesly Lewis, Assistant Dean, Office of the Dean and Vice-Principal (Academic)

**1. Chair's Remarks**

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting. She also welcomed Professor Matthew Hoffmann, Ms Nancy Lee, Ms Susan Murray, and Professor Grace Skodstad who participated in the meeting by teleconference, and introduced Mr. Anwar Kazimi, Assistant Secretary of the Governing Council, who was filling in for Ms Amorell Saunders N'Daw, Director of Governance, UTSC.

On behalf of members, the Chair congratulated Professor Bruce Kidd on his recent appointment as Vice-President and Principal of UTSC.

**2. Assessors' Reports**

Professor Rick Halpern, Dean and Vice-Principal (Academic) reported that there were business items from his portfolio that would be considered by the Committee at future meetings. He invited Professor Mark Schmuckler, Vice-Dean, Undergraduate, to provide the Committee with a summary. The summary included the following major points:

A. Proposed Academic Changes Requiring Approval from the UTSC Academic Affairs Committee

The following proposed academic changes would require governance approval because changes to academic regulations fall under the purview of the Academic Affairs Committee according to its Terms of Reference.

- The Propaedeutic Rule-  
If a student took a course in which he or she had not taken the specific prerequisite the student could not take the prerequisite course for academic credit at a later date. Professor Schmuckler reported that the propaedeutic rule unfairly disadvantaged some students and recommended that it be eliminated for that reason. He added that neither the Faculty of Arts and Science (FAS) or the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) applied this rule.
- Combinations of Programs and Degrees Conferred-  
Professor Schmuckler reported that changes to academic regulations regarding the combination of programs and type of degrees would be brought forward for approval

so that the type of degree was only determined by a Specialist or Major program. Professor Schmuckler added that the current regulation allowed for a student to complete a Honours BA or BSc based on the nature of a Minor program. He added that the proposed academic regulations would be aligned with those of FAS and UTM.

B. Proposed Academic Changes to be Implemented without Governance Approval from the UTSC Academic Affairs Committee

The following proposed academic changes would not require governance approval because they were administrative in nature.

- **Combining Co-op Major Programs with Other Major Programs-**  
Professor Schmuckler reported that the current practice at UTSC had been to combine Co-op Major programs with other Major programs, which that this practice had come into question by some academic units. Consultation with the Arts and Science Co-op Office indicated support for combining Co-op Major programs with other Minor programs. Professor Schmuckler added that the Office of the Dean and Vice-Principal (Academic) would revise the Academic Calendar to allow for Major Co-op programs to be combined with Minor programs effective in the 2015-16 academic year.
- **Changing Course-level Designators from Letters to Numbers-**  
Professor Schmuckler reported that courses at UTSC were identified using the letters- A,B,C,D, while other undergraduate divisions at the University identified courses using numbers- 100, 200,300, and 400. With the move from the Repository of Student Information (ROSI) to the new Next Generation Student Information System (NGSIS), the use of different designators from the other undergraduate divisions would become problematic for coding in the system. He reported that the change would likely be implemented by the 2016-17 academic year.

The Chair thanked Professor Halpern and Professor Schmuckler for their Assessors' report.

**3. Strategic Topic: Sport and Research: Opportunities Beyond Pan-Am**

The Chair introduced and invited Professor Malcolm Campbell, Vice-Principal, Research, to present the strategic topic. Professor Campbell's presentation, which highlighted sport and research at UTSC and its connection with the broader community, included a comprehensive description of the Toronto Pan-Am Sports Centre (TPASC) and addressed the following major points:

Research- the ability to leverage UTSC's proximity to the Canadian Sports Institute of Ontario (CSIO) to talk about research opportunities in the physical and social sciences. Faculty who have already begun to explore research partnerships with the CSIO included:

Professor Ken Welch (stress physiology), Professor David Fleet (human motion) and Professor Rene Harrison (cell biology).

- Academic Opportunities-using TPASC and the CSIO for experiential learning, embedded curriculum, and to attract athletic scholars to UTSC.
- Community Engagement- the importance of sharing discoveries made at UTSC with the broader community to improve the lives of those living in the eastern part of the GTA.

In response to a question from a member, Professor Campbell explained that UTSC paid the CSIO for use of equipment or facilities by UTSC faculty and students.

A member asked whether there were any plans to hire new faculty who could take advantage of the TPASC and the CSIO, and Professor Campbell replied that the Department Chairs needed to express interest and initiate dialogue with the Office of the Dean and Vice-Principal (Academic) in terms of hiring new faculty.

In response to a question as to whether or not athletic scholars would be eligible for financial aid, Professor Campbell affirmed that they would be eligible..

#### **4. External Review of the UTSC Academic Portfolio**

The Chair introduced and invited Professor Halpern to discuss the recent review of the UTSC Academic Portfolio. Professor Halpern advised the Committee that, in his view, the review was positive and balanced. He explained that the Vice-President and Provost, Professor Cheryl Regehr and the previous Vice-President and Principal, Professor Franco Vaccarino had initiated the review of the Academic Portfolio. The review was conducted to assess the academic health of the campus, and not the current leadership. Professor Halpern provided a brief summary of the finding from the review, which included the following major points:

- **Curriculum and Program Delivery-** The reviewers raised the issue of depth versus breadth in curriculum, which Professor Halpern reported was a challenge for many departments. It was suggested that program offerings be reviewed for deeper disciplinary emphasis. The reviewers were impressed with the integration of librarians into educational developments, particularly at the department level.
- **Students-** The reviewers commented on the need for improved campus-based services for students, which included study space. They also observed challenges in the quality of the student population and noted special challenges in addressing varying levels of English competency.
- **Relationships-** The reviewers commented on the differing levels of engagement between UTSC units and the graduate units on the St. George campus. Professor Halpern reported that as the Tri-Campus system evolved, he expected that these issues would likely begin to dissipate.
- **Resources & Planning-** The reviewers provided suggested the need to review the structure and function of the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) in order to ensure that the undergraduate experience reached its potential. Professor Halpern added that

encouraging other portfolios to review their structure, function and processes was beneficial.

A member commented on the external reviewer's remarks regarding the calibre of the student population at UTSC due to their English competency skills, and Professor Halpern reported that he had corrected any factual errors regarding English competency skills that the reviewers made in their report. He also added that UTSC was committed to supporting those students who enrolled with language barriers by providing English language training and ongoing support.

A member asked what usually happened after an external review of an academic department was conducted. Professor Halpern explained that a typical external review would end with the Department Chair and himself meeting along with other members of the department to develop a plan for the department that would fit into the UTSC Academic Plan and the University's priorities.

In response to a question from a member, Professor David Zweig, Chair of the Department of Management, reported that future plans for the Department of Management would be addressed in the new Academic Plan.

---

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

On motion duly made, seconded and carried,

YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED,

THAT the consent agenda be adopted and the item requiring approval (item 5) be approved.

5. **Report of the Previous Meeting: Report 8 – Monday, November 10, 2014***(for approval)*
6. **Business Arising from the Report of the Previous Meeting**
7. **Date of the Next Meeting** –Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

---

## **8. Other Business**

No other business was raised.

The meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

---

Secretary

---

Chair