



**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**  
OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

**Appendix 'A' of Report  
Number 133 of the  
Academic Board  
(February 21, 2005)**

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

SPONSOR: Professor David H. Farrar  
CONTACT INFO: 416 978-3870 david.farrar@utoronto.ca

DATE: January 17, 2005 for meeting on February 2, 2005

AGENDA ITEM: 4

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

**Statement of Commitment Regarding International Students**

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Committee has the authority to recommend to the Academic Board University-wide policy in academic matters.

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

In 1987, the Governing Council approved a Policy on Foreign Students. The proposed Statement of Commitment Regarding International Students, which includes the same principles, is intended to update and supersede that Policy.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

The University's academic plan, Stepping UP, speaks of our mission, as a student-centred public teaching and research university, to contribute to our local, national and international community. International students are essential to the educational diversity of the University. The Statement of Commitment Regarding International Students reflects the priority the University places on enrolling international students as an essential feature of the University's participation in international scholarship. The Statement articulates basic principles pertaining to international students with respect to recruitment, admission, right of access to courses, programs and student services, and to financial support arrangements. *It differs from the former Policy in providing more concrete details on the University's plans with respect to recruitment, admission scholarships and student aid.*

**FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:**

Requests to create funds that support international student aid and international student recruitment will be brought forward to the Planning and Budget Committee.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs recommend to the Academic Board:

THAT the Statement of Commitment Regarding International Students be approved, superseding the 1987 Policy on Foreign Students.

# STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT REGARDING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

## 1. Preamble

- (a) The presence of international students is an essential feature of the University of Toronto's participation in international scholarship. They contribute to the international character of the University's research, and their presence provides opportunities for the international exchange of knowledge through our teaching programs. The presence of outstanding students from all parts of the world in the University's undergraduate and graduate, professional, and research programs contributes to the attainment and maintenance of excellence the University seeks to assure for all its activities. On the University's campuses, international students also make important and positive contributions to the cultural life of the community and they create lasting relationships of benefit to individuals as well as to the institution and to the country generally. By enrolling international students, the University of Toronto, as an internationally significant university, has an opportunity to share its educational resources with other countries whose institutions are still evolving.
- (b) In light of these considerations, the Governing Council has adopted the Statement of Commitment Regarding International Students which commits the University to enrolling a broad mix of international students in its programs, and which articulates the basic principles that will guide their admission to the University, arrangements for their financial support, right of access to academic courses and programs, and provision of services to address their particular needs.
- (c) This Statement of Commitment applies to University of Toronto students in university degree, diploma, and certificate programs who are not Canadian citizens, permanent residents, or convention refugees.

## 2. Statement of Principles

- (a) Within the framework of divisional academic plans, the University of Toronto welcomes international students into all of its programs.

**2. Statement of Principles (cont'd)**

- (b) The admission of international students will be consistent with the Policies and Principles for Admission to the University of Toronto approved by the Governing Council in 1991.
- (c) The University will broaden and strengthen its recruiting efforts abroad.
- (d) Once they are admitted to the University, international students will have access to the same range of courses and support services on the same basis as other students.

**3. Financial Support**

- (a) International students who are admitted and enrolled may encounter financial emergencies and the University will provide financial assistance as needed and where possible.
- (b) The University will develop a program of international admission scholarships using its own resources and support from external sources; these scholarships will be awarded on the basis of both exceptional academic merit and financial need.
- (c) The Report of the Vice-Provost, Students on Student Financial Support, submitted annually to governance for information, will include data on the support provided to international students.

February 8, 2005



## **POLICY ON FOREIGN STUDENTS**

Foreign students are an essential feature of the University of Toronto's participation in international scholarship. They contribute to the international character of the University's research, and provide opportunities for the international transmission of knowledge through its teaching programs. The presence of outstanding students from all parts of the world in the University's undergraduate and graduate, professional, and research programs, helps to achieve the excellence the University seeks to assure for all its activities. On the University's campuses foreign students also make an important and positive contribution to the cultural life of the community and create lasting relationships of benefit to individuals as well as to the institution and the country generally. And finally, by enrolling foreign students the University of Toronto, as a now mature university in a well-developed country, has an opportunity to share its educational resources with less well developed countries whose institutions are still evolving.

In light of these considerations, the Governing Council has adopted the Policy on Foreign Students that commits the University to enrolling a broad mix of foreign students in its programs, and that articulates the basic principles that will guide their admission to the University, arrangements for their financial support, right of access to academic courses and programs, and the provision of services to address their particular needs.

1. The University of Toronto welcomes foreign students into all of its programs;
2. Academic merit is the primary criterion for admission of foreign students to the University of Toronto;
3. Faculties, Schools, Colleges, Departments, Centres and Institutes of the University of Toronto should enrol foreign students from as many different countries as possible, consistent with 2 above;
4. The University of Toronto recognizes that as a result of cultural differences, financial burdens and legal constraints, many foreign students have special needs. These needs should be taken into account in all University academic divisions;
5. The University of Toronto should mitigate, wherever possible the financial constraints which inhibit attraction and enrolment of outstanding foreign student applicants;
6. A foreign student once admitted to a University of Toronto degree program will have access to courses required to complete that program on the same basis as all other students.

Approved by Governing Council on June 25, 1987