



TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

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DATE: Meeting of March 1, 2011

AGENDA ITEM: **3(b)**

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Follow-up Report on the Review of the Department of Humanities at the University of Toronto Scarborough

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee is the point of entry into governance for reports, summaries and administrative responses on the results of academic reviews of programs and units commissioned by academic administrators. The role of the Committee is to ensure that the reviews are conducted as per University policy and guidelines, an appropriate process is being used, adequate documentation is provided, consultations are undertaken, and issues identified in the review are addressed by the administration. Under the new University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process, the Committee may request a one year follow-up report where concerns are raised in an external review that require longer period of response.

This report is forwarded, together with the record of the Committee's discussion, to the Agenda Planning committee of the Academic Board, which determines whether there are any issues of general academic import warranting discussion at the Board level. The same documentation is sent to the Executive Committee of Governing Council for information.

PREVIOUS ACTION

The Department of Humanities at the University of Toronto Scarborough was reviewed on December 16-18, 2009. In their report of January 4, 2010 the external reviewers made recommendations for specific changes. In response, the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs asked for a one year follow-up report to provide the opportunity for the University of Toronto Scarborough to provide information on a number of identified issues: structural changes, curriculum and academic planning, and morale and leadership in the program.

HIGHLIGHTS

The follow-up report from the University of Toronto Scarborough focuses on the following areas identified in the initial review report:

- *Structural changes*

The reviewers suggested that structural changes would improve the administrative management, delivery of programs and scholarly activity of the Department. In his response, the Dean and Vice-Principal (Academic) indicated that the creation of two additional departments was being considered. The follow-up report describes the discussions and progress made on this front.

- *Curriculum and academic planning*

As the complex nature of the review of the Department of Humanities did not allow for a review of the programs within the Department, the Dean and Vice-Principal (Academic) indicated that program reviews would be conducted in the next year. The follow-up report provides an update on academic planning at UTSC and the procedure and schedule for the upcoming reviews.

- *Morale and leadership in the department*

The reviewers noted in their report “We found a unit riven by competing visions for the humanities and in extreme conflict about governance.” While this statement speaks to structural issues in the department, it also speaks to leadership challenges and morale issues. The follow-up report provides an update on structural issues and morale as well as the impact of leadership changes in the department.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS: n/a

RECOMMENDATION: For Information.