



TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

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AGENDA ITEM: 8(b) 1

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

**Follow-up Report on the Review of the Centre for the Environment and its programs**

**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 according to 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 when concerns are raised in an external review that require a 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 significance warranting discussion at the Board level. The same documentation is sent to the Executive Committee of Governing Council for information.

**PREVIOUS ACTION**

The Centre for the Environment in the Faculty of Arts and Science was reviewed on February 21, 2010 and the summary and administrative response presented to the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs on September 21, 2010. The report of the external reviewers spoke very positively about the University's strength in this area and the critical importance of faculty research. At the same time, however, they emphasized a number of challenges facing the unit. In response, the Committee asked for a one year follow-up report to provide the opportunity for the Faculty of Arts and Science to address concerns around the structure and administration of the unit.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

The follow-up report from the Faculty of Arts and Science focuses on the following areas as requested by the Committee:

- *Structure and administration of the unit*

The reviewers presented four possible models for the Centre's future. In his follow-up report the Dean of the Faculty describes in detail the progress that has been made in conducting a principled discussion of the programs that should be offered in the area of the environment and resources from which larger discussions of structures will follow.

**FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:** n/a

**RECOMMENDATION:** For Information.