



TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

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DATE: December 17, 2012 for January 15, 2013

AGENDA ITEM: 1

ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Report on the Reviews of Clinical Departments: 2011-12

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

“The Committee...has general responsibility...for monitoring, the quality of education and the research activities of the University....The Committee receives annual reports or such more frequent regular reports as it may determine, on matters within its purview, including reports on the ...[r]eviews of academic units and programs.”¹

PREVIOUS ACTION

Governing Council approved the *Policy for Approval and Review of Academic Programs and Units* in 2010. The *Policy* outlines University-wide principles for the approval of proposed new academic programs and review of existing programs and units.² Its goal is to align the University’s quality assurance processes with the Province’s Quality Assurance Framework through establishing the authority of the University of Toronto’s Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP), which outlines the process for reviewing academic programs and the units that offer them.

Modeled on the UTQAP review process, but outside of the scope of the UTQAP, the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine commissions reviews of the Faculty’s clinical departments and prepares an annual report on their outcomes and implementation plans. Because of the unique contribution clinical departments make to the Faculty’s undergraduate medical education program, this report is brought forward for information to AP&P. These reviews are intended to help assess and improve quality. The *Policy for Approval and Review of Academic Programs and Units* states that “the quality of the scholarship of the faculty, and the degree to which that scholarship is brought to bear in teaching are the foundations of academic excellence. More generally, all of the factors that contribute to collegial and scholarly life —academic and administrative complement, research and scholarly activity, infrastructure, governance, etc.—bear on the quality of academic programs and the broad educational experience of students.”³

This first report on the reviews of clinical departments is being brought forward to the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs for information.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Four external reviews of clinical departments were commissioned by the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine in 2011-12. The submission to AP&P consists of a table that summarizes the review outcomes and decanal response/implementation plan for each review.

The overall assessment of the quality of each of the clinical departments was positive. The reviews identified strengths in undergraduate medical education, residency programs and continuing education, outstanding success rates of trainees in specialist qualifying examinations, scope and impact of research, connections to and recognition by external—often international—institutions, and department leadership.

Some reviews identified opportunities for improvement around faculty mentorship, ties with cognate units within the University, and coordination with hospitals. The reviews made important recommendations on how these matters could be improved. The decanal administrative responses/implementation plans addressed these issues and others.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS: n/a

RECOMMENDATION: For Information.

¹ Committee on Academic Policy and Programs Terms of Reference, sections 3 and 4.9.

<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Boards+and+Committees/Committee+on+Academic+Policy+and+Programs/apptor.pdf>

²http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/AcaProgs_Units_pdf.htm

³http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/AcaProgs_Units_pdf.htm