

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**  
**THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**  
**REPORT NUMBER 101 OF THE COMMITTEE ON**  
**ACADEMIC POLICY AND PROGRAMS**

**March 19, 2003**

To the Academic Board,  
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it held a meeting on Wednesday, March 19, 2003 at 4:10 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Simcoe Hall, at which the following were present:

Professor J. J. Berry Smith (In the Chair)  
Professor Carolyn Tuohy, Vice President  
(Policy Development) and Associate  
Provost  
Professor Vivek Goel, Deputy Provost and  
Vice-Provost, Faculty  
Professor Derek Allen  
Mr. Adam Chapnick  
Professor Mary Chipman  
Professor James Donaldson  
Dr. Inez Elliston  
Mr. Josh Hunter  
Ms Vera Melnyk  
Mr. David Melville

Professor Cheryl Regehr  
Professor Robert Reisz  
Mrs. Susan Scace  
Professor Dennis Thiessen

Non-Voting Assessors:

Professor David Farrar, Vice-Provost  
Students

Secretariat:

Ms Susan Girard  
Ms Silvia Rosatone, Secretary

Regrets:

Mr. Syed Ahmed  
Ms Honor Brabazon  
Ms Ranjini Ghosh  
Professor Anthony Haasz  
Professor Wayne Hindmarsh  
Professor Ellen Hodnett

Professor Lynne C. Howarth  
Professor David J.A. Jenkins  
Professor Karen Rice  
Mr. Vivek Sekhar  
Professor Alexandra Johnston  
Professor Tas Venetsanopoulos

In Attendance:

Dr. Guy Allen, Head, Professional Writing Program, UTM  
Professor Robert Baker, Associate Dean, Sciences, UTM  
Professor Rorke Bryan, Dean, Faculty of Forestry  
Professor Ray Cummins, Director, Forensic Sciences Program, UTM  
Professor Umberto DeBoni, Associate Dean, Division IV, School of Graduate Studies  
Professor David Dyzenhaus, Associate Dean of Law (Graduate), Faculty of Law  
Mr. Don MacMillan, Director of Recruitment and Registrar, UTSC  
Professor Boris Steipe, Program in Proteomics and Bioinformatics  
Professor Bill Thompson, Director, Communication, Culture and Information Technology  
Program, UTM

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ITEMS 2 AND 6 ARE RECOMMENDED TO THE BOARD FOR APPROVAL. ALL OTHER ITEMS ARE REPORTED FOR INFORMATION.

**1. Time of Adjournment**

On motion duly moved and seconded,

It was agreed

THAT the meeting adjourn no later than 6:00 p.m.

With the permission of the Committee, the Chair varied the order of the Agenda and discussed Item 4, Proposal for a New Master of International Trade in Forest Products (M.T.F.P.), before the reports of the previous meeting.

**2. School of Graduate Studies: Proposal for a new Master of International Trade in Forest Products (M.T.F.P.)**

The Chair welcomed Professor Rorke Bryan and Professor Umberto DeBoni to the meeting.

Professor Tuohy introduced the proposal for a professional master's program offered in an executive format with six week-long modules over a sixteen-month period. She added that professors from Management, Law and the Institute of Policy Analysis would teach in the program.

A member commented that it was an excellent proposal but questioned whether the faculty member in commerce could be selected from faculty at the University of Toronto rather than the University of British Columbia (UBC). Professor Bryan first thanked members of the Committee for moving his agenda item forward. He then explained that the faculty member in question had a unique combination of extraordinary expertise in areas of international trade and economics. The program would not only benefit from this expertise but could utilize this connection to bridge the gap between east and west that was developing in the forest trade in Canada.

A member questioned the introduction of a new degree designation when the University presently conferred a large number of graduate degrees. Professor Bryan noted that the designation of the degree program had been carefully considered to reflect the unique nature of the program. Unlike the Master of Science in Forestry, it was not a research degree nor was it a traditional Forestry degree because it focused on international trade. It was expected to appeal to a particular clientele.

Professor Tuohy added a comment about professional master's programs in general, noting that similar questions about these programs had been raised in the past, which had prompted the Provost's Office to consider a review of the current list of professional master's degrees to determine if guidelines regarding degree designations were required.

The Chair noted that international trade was not reflected in the initials for the degree designation, M.T.F.P. He suggested that if this was an important element of the program, then it should be reflected in the initials and he asked if an "I" could be added. A brief discussion followed and Professor Bryan agreed that the inclusion was important in the title. He would discuss this with the School of Graduate Studies.

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**2. School of Graduate Studies: Proposal for a new Master of International Trade in Forest Products (M.T.F.P.) (cont'd)**

In response to a member's question about the cost of the program, Professor Bryan replied that the tuition would be \$25,000 and added that the modular structure of the program would allow students to retain their jobs while enrolled.

On motion duly moved and seconded,

YOUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS

THAT the new Master of International Trade in Forest Products (M.T.F.P.) program as described in the submission from the School of Graduate Studies, dated February 10, 2003, a copy of which is attached hereto as Appendix "A", effective January 2004, be approved.

**3. Reports of the Previous Meetings – February 5 and February 27, 2003**

Report Number 99 of the meeting of February 5, 2003 was approved.

Report Number 100 of the special meeting of February 27, 2003 was approved.

**4. University of Toronto at Mississauga: Calendar Changes 2003-04**

The Chair welcomed the guests from the University of Toronto at Mississauga (UTM) and invited Professor Tuohy to introduce the proposed new programs.

Professor Tuohy noted this was the first occasion that calendar changes had come to the Committee directly from UTM as a result of new administrative and constitutional changes establishing UTM as a separate academic division from the Faculty of Arts and Science. She added that these calendar changes had been discussed at the Tri-campus Arts and Science Decanal Committee before submission to this Committee. The new programs represented distinctive areas of specialization for UTM and included the following: three specialist programs in Communication, Culture and Information Technology; a specialist program in Biotechnology; three specialist programs in Forensic Science (in Anthropology, Biology and Psychology); a major program in Performance and Theatre; two minor programs in French; and a major program in Professional Writing and Communications (PWC). She noted that the major in Professional Writing and Communications would be taken in conjunction with another major or specialist program within a 20-credit degree.

A member asked what prospects existed for graduates of the Biotechnology program. Professor Baker replied that graduates of this program could continue their studies at the graduate level in either Chemistry or Biology. If this avenue was not pursued, graduates could enter directly into the work force where many opportunities existed in this field worldwide.

Noting the trend toward 20-credit programs, such as that required for the new major in PWC, a member expressed his concern about students currently enrolled in 15-credit degree programs. Professor Baker replied that any student currently enrolled in the 15-credit program would be allowed to continue with policies in place at the time of their admission. These calendar changes would affect new students only.

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**4. University of Toronto at Mississauga: Calendar Changes 2003-04 (cont'd)**

A member asked about the rationale for offering the PWC program as a major and not a minor. Dr. Allen replied that a minor program already existed and had prospered for 10 years and the move to a major was a result of student demand. The new major program would better prepare students for graduate studies. The member then asked which graduate programs these students would apply to. Dr. Allen noted that graduates with a minor in PWC have been admitted to graduate studies in Journalism (University of Western Ontario); Master of Publishing (Simon Fraser University); Master of Communications and Culture (York University); Ph.D. in Professional Writing (University of Waterloo) and one graduate was a faculty member at the University of British Columbia in journalism.

A member referred to the proposal for the Digital Enterprise Management (Arts) Specialist Program and noted that the proposal stated enrolment in the program was highly competitive yet the minimum average required in specific courses was only 63%. He expressed his opinion that a low "C" was not competitive. Professor Thompson replied that the requirements were consistent with the practices in the management and commerce programs. As well, applicants would have to meet the minimum cumulative grade point average (CGPA) which would be determined annually. The management and commerce programs were very competitive and he predicted this program would follow suit using the same guidelines. Another member added that the minimum averages could be misinterpreted by students and consequently challenged and she suggested that the wording be carefully examined. Professor Goel noted that the University Registrar was consulting with registrars with the aim to make calendar entries consistent in all faculties. The Chair advised the guests to confer with the University Registrar in this respect before the calendar was finalized.

On motion duly moved and seconded,

YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED

The new programs as described in the submission from the University of Toronto at Mississauga, dated February 4, 2003, effective for the academic year 2003-2004.

**5. School of Graduate Studies: S.J.D. Program**

The Chair welcomed Professor David Dyzenhaus and invited Professor Tuohy to introduce the items.

**a. Changes to Program Requirements**

Professor Tuohy noted that the first item, which required committee approval, spoke to changes in the program requirements. The proposal introduced an Area Requirement to be completed under supervision of an Individual Area Committee before the student began thesis work. This requirement would provide more structure to the program.

Professor Dyzenhaus commented that the proposed changes would be consistent with the better practices of the University. A member noted that the Area Requirement should have a time-to-completion limit. A member added that reference was made to that effect in the text but not specified in the proposal for the calendar entry. Professor Dyzenhaus agreed that the time line should be clearly stated and it was intended that this requirement

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**5. School of Graduate Studies: S.J.D. Program (cont'd)**

be completed by the end of the first year. He added that it would be printed in the calendar. Another member asked what the difference was between the J.D. and the S.J.D. Professor Dyzenhaus said the J.D. was the undergraduate professional program and the S.J.D. was the doctoral program.

On motion duly moved and seconded,

YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED

THE proposed changes in program requirements for the SJD program as described in the submission from the School of Graduate Studies, dated February 10, 2003, effective September 2003.

**b. Direct Admission to S.J.D Program**

The second item, presented for information, proposed to make the S.J.D. program a direct-entry program. Professor Tuohy noted that the proposal was consistent with other direct-entry programs.

No questions were asked.

**6. University of Toronto at Scarborough: Discontinuation of the 15-credit B.A./B.Sc. Degree**

The Chair welcomed Mr. Don MacMillan to the meeting.

Professor Tuohy introduced the motion and noted that both the Faculty of Arts and Science and the University of Toronto at Mississauga (UTM) had discontinued the 15-credit degree. Now, like the other two campuses, UTSC had come to the judgment that the 20-credit program was necessary as the vehicle for the on-going development of the undergraduate curriculum at a high level of quality. For example, co-op programs, a major area of emphasis for UTSC, required a 20-credit format.

Mr. MacMillan commented that current students would be grandparented and allowed to complete their 15-credit degree. This 20-credit degree proposal would take effect for students entering the Summer 2004 session.

A member asked if the University was the only university not offering a three-year degree. Professor Tuohy replied that she did not have the information with her for this meeting but noted that similar information had been discussed in the past.

Another member noted that some students still wanted a three-year degree. He added that some professional faculties required two to three years of undergraduate education and a three-year degree would have some value in this case.

A member noted that academic reasons supporting this issue had prevailed when the discontinuation of this degree on the St. George campus was approved. He believed the academic reasons given would prevail in this case.

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**6. University of Toronto at Scarborough: Discontinuation of the 15-credit B.A./B.Sc. Degree (cont'd)**

The Chair added that the elimination of grade 13 could have a very significant effect. He expressed his concern that the value of the three-year degree would be debased when combined with a reduced secondary school education. A member replied that other provinces did not have grade 13 and it had been acceptable in the past when students from these provinces obtained a three-year degree.

Another member raised concern about the effect of this proposal on part-time students and the fact that it would increase their time to completion. He added that at the time of the discussion of the discontinuation of the 15-credit program at St. George, a certificate of 'attestation' had been suggested. This certificate could be given to students in recognition of the completion of ten courses, for example. This milestone would not be recognized on transcripts.

Professor Tuohy noted that the reasons for discontinuing the 15-credit program at the other two campuses were academic in nature and it was the same academic reasons that drove this proposal. She added that standards should be equal at the three campuses and UTSC should have the same vehicle to achieve these standards.

Several members supported the proposal agreeing that the four-year degree provided an opportunity for greater breadth of study. Professor Tuohy commented that the level of expectation of university graduates was increasing and the workforce now expected a university degree where in the past it had expected a high school degree. These expectations were driving the curriculum and the 20-credit degree was the vehicle to support these curriculum changes. Professor Goel added that there was more to teach, the skills to be acquired were more complex and the range of subjects had increased. A 20-credit degree was required to meet these demands. A member noted that the 20-credit degree offered the opportunity to give breadth to the degree and he saw strong academic reasons for the discontinuation of the 15-credit degree.

A member noted that it would be impossible not to grant UTSC the same privilege granted to the other campuses. This could create a two-tiered system. She added that the 20-credit degree gave students the opportunity to participate in co-op programs which were important to the University. However, she noted that attention should be given to finding alternatives for mature and/or part-time students. For example, work experience could be evaluated for credit. Another suggestion would be to provide a document certifying a given level of accomplishment if the degree was not completed.

A member said he was concerned that programs were tailored to the marketplace and he expressed his opinion that there was a drift away from liberal arts degrees. He added that the University appeared to ignore a segment of mature students who wished to return to university to acquire a liberal arts education. The Chair noted that, as Director of the Human Biology program, he would like to achieve a broader program and include other courses outside of the life sciences, but this had been difficult in a 15-credit degree program. He added that he understood the member's comment but in his opinion, the liberal arts education would be best served by the breadth of a 20-credit program. As well, he noted that there was an academic purpose to this proposal and this should not be confused with accessibility to higher education. Professor Goel added that the liberal arts education was very important to the Provost's Office and was prominent in the green papers.

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**6. University of Toronto at Scarborough: Discontinuation of the 15-credit B.A./B.Sc. Degree (cont'd)**

A member noted that time-to-completion data would be useful. Professor Tuohy replied that these data were reported in the Performance Indicators which were discussed annually by the Governing Council.

On motion duly moved and seconded,

YOUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS

THAT the proposal for discontinuation of the 15-credit B.A. and B.Sc. degrees, as described in the University of Toronto submission, dated February 26, 2003, a copy of which is attached hereto as Appendix "B", be approved, effective for students registering at the University of Toronto at Scarborough in the Summer of 2004.

**7. Items for Information:**

**a. New Collaborative Master's and Ph.D. Program in Developmental Science**

There was some discussion about the appropriateness of the title of the program ("Developmental Science"). Professor DeBoni noted that Division IV Executive Committee at the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) had discussed this issue and approved the title.

One member commented on the fact that only two departments were collaborating in this program. Professor Goel said that this was not unusual and that the number of participating departments was expected to grow in the future.

**b. New Collaborative Ph.D. Program in Proteomics and Bioinformatics**

Professor DeBoni noted that six departments were involved in this program and that SGS was very pleased to see this proposal go forward. Professor Steipe added that this was a very interdisciplinary area and they hoped to integrate colleagues from mathematics and computer science.

A member asked for the definition of proteomics. Professor Steipe replied that a proteome is a collection of proteins in cells.

**c. Department of French Language and Literature – Direct Admission to Ph.D. Program**

No questions were asked.

**8. Reports of the Administrative Assessors**

Professor Goel provided an update on the Green Paper exercise. He reported that the Provost had been overwhelmed with submissions and had been reading them as well as all the entries for the "Name the Plan Contest". A draft of the White Paper would be released later in the spring.

Professors Tuohy and Farrar had nothing to report.

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**9. Date of Next Meeting**

The Chair noted that the date of the next meeting was Wednesday, April 9, 2003.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

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Secretary  
March 25, 2003

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Chair