

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL
REPORT NUMBER 107 OF THE COMMITTEE ON
ACADEMIC POLICY AND PROGRAMS

March 3, 2004

To the Academic Board,
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it held a meeting on Wednesday, March 3, 2004 at 4:10 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Simcoe Hall, at which the following were present:

Professor Cheryl Regehr (In the Chair)
Professor Vivek Goel, Acting Vice-
President and Provost
Professor David Farrar, Vice-Provost,
Students
Professor Rona Abramovitch
Mr. Syed W. Ahmed
Professor Derek Allen
Dr. Inez N. Elliston
Ms Rochelle Fernandes
Professor Faith Fich
Professor Anthony Haasz
Professor Wayne Hindmarsh

Mr. Martin Hycza
Professor Alexandra Johnston
Professor Ronald Kluger
Professor James Lepock
Ms Vera Melnyk
Professor Brian Cantwell Smith
Miss Maureen Somerville
Professor Dennis Thiessen

Secretariat:

Mr. Andrew Drummond, Secretary
Ms Silvia Rosatone

Regrets:

Professor J.J. Berry Smith
Mr. Frank Belluardo
Mr. Bruce G. Cameron
Ms Ranjini Ghosh

Ms Maritza Jackman
Professor David Jenkins
Professor Robert Reisz
Professor Tas Venetsanopoulos

In Attendance:

Professor Hugh Mason, Department of Classics, Faculty of Arts and Science

ITEM 4 IS RECOMMENDED TO ACADEMIC BOARD FOR APPROVAL.
ALL OTHER ITEMS ARE REPORTED FOR INFORMATION.

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1. Time of Adjournment

On motion duly moved and seconded,

It was agreed

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

2. Report of the Previous Meeting – February 10, 2004

Report Number 106 of the meeting of February 10, 2004 was approved.

3. Business Arising

There was no business arising from the previous meeting.

4. School of Graduate Studies: Proposal for a Joint University of Toronto-York University Collaborative Doctoral Program in Ancient Greek and Roman History

The Chair welcomed Professor Hugh Mason, Department of Classics, to the meeting.

Professor Goel summarized the proposed new program, noting that it represented an ability for both the University of Toronto and York University to take advantage of their respective strengths in the field and give greater advantage to students in both institutions.

There was some discussion, during which members noted the following points:

- Mandatory travel between the two institutions should be minimized as much as possible, given that student travel was not funded; and
- The universities should take extra care to ensure that the rights and obligations of students in the program were clearly communicated and understood, given the rarity of joint doctoral programs.

Professor Mason noted in response that travel was not funded but that the program directors would endeavour to simplify arrangements for students to the greatest extent possible. In addition, the program would clarify the rights and obligations of both institutions as well as students by reducing the complexity of the currently allowed practice of cross-appointment of supervisors and members of supervisory committees. In addition, he noted, the joint nature of the new program would allow for considerable improvements in student recruitment by bringing together the strengths of the two universities.

Professor Goel noted that the initiative was to be applauded in that this type of initiative provided greater options to students and reflected the spirit of the academic planning process in seeking out new opportunities for program collaboration. He further noted that both universities were fully accredited by the Ontario Council on Graduate Studies (OCGS), and the School of Graduate Studies was confident that its standards for a PhD program would be met.

4. School of Graduate Studies: Proposal for a Joint University of Toronto-York University Collaborative Doctoral Program in Ancient Greek and Roman History (cont'd.)

On motion duly moved and seconded,

YOUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS

THAT the proposed joint University of Toronto-York University collaborative doctoral program in Ancient Greek and Roman History, as outlined in the submission from the School of Graduate Studies dated January 30, 2004, a copy of which is attached hereto as Appendix "A", be approved.

5. Vice-Provost, Students: Report on Student Financial Support, 2002-2003

The Chair invited Professor David Farrar, Vice-Provost, Students, to present his annual report on Student Financial Support.

Professor Farrar noted that two major changes had occurred since the last report on student financial support: first, that the text had been considerably streamlined and clarified; and secondly, that an offline session involving members of the Committee and the University Affairs Board had allowed a more in-depth discussion of the issue.

He then reported that the University of Toronto's policy on student financial support provided an important guarantee to students, helping to ensure that no qualified student would be unable to attend on purely financial grounds. To enable the policy, the University had over time built its needs-based assistance from \$1 million annually to \$40 million, and that UTAPS (University of Toronto Advance Planning for Students) process, which was built on OSAP information, disbursed \$14 million annually.

Professor Farrar then summarized the range of programs offered, noting that his office continued to monitor student debt loads and accessibility to programs. He noted for the record that, based on the best information available, the University was maintaining accessibility to its programs.

There was some discussion, during which the following questions were raised, and answered as indicated:

- Was the guaranteed funding plan for graduate students part of this aid?
 - The guaranteed funding plan was not classified as student financial aid; if graduate students under the plan required additional needs-based aid, they could apply for it.
- What proportion of graduate students were in the 'funded cohort'?
 - Approximately two-thirds of all graduate students were in the funded cohort. Those who were not had either extended their programs beyond five years or were not eligible for other reasons.
- Why were some doctoral students guaranteed funding for only four years, when the guarantee was for five?

**5. Vice-Provost, Students: Report on Student Financial Support, 2002-2003
(cont'd.)**

- The funded cohort model for graduate students allowed for variation; some models were for five funded years at the PhD level, while others provided funds for one or two years of a doctoral-stream master's program. In all cases, funding was available for five years.
- Was OSAP information the best way to build information for UTAPS?
 - OSAP information was likely the best possible standard measure for student need, despite OSAP's funding difficulties.
- Was OSAP information appropriate for the high cost of living in Toronto?
 - Because of UTAPS' ability to go beyond OSAP guidelines in funding students, the University of Toronto was likely more accessible to needy students than other universities.
- What were the impacts of the guaranteed funding model for graduate students on graduate enrolment planning?
 - The guaranteed funding model for graduate students had become a useful impetus for proper enrolment planning at the graduate level. Professor Goel noted that the current levels of government funding did not provide for adequate support to graduate students overall.
- Were 'middle-class' students being squeezed out of University? If so, was there a backlash against this phenomenon, and how did the University respond?
 - The difficulties in determining which segments of the overall population constituted the 'middle class' notwithstanding, the University of Toronto strongly believed that the OSAP model urgently required revision. In addition, the University of Toronto pursued the most progressive option available to it. In terms of public opinion of University funding, the administration continued to believe that the policies governing student financial support were appropriate.
- How did the University plan to respond to the general social attitude that debt for schooling reflected poorly on society?
 - The University of Toronto would gladly participate in broader social discussions on the role of educational debt, and continued to support OSAP and other reforms that would enable greater levels of participation in postsecondary sectors.

The Chair thanked Professor Farrar for his report.

6. Item for Information

- (i) School of Graduate Studies: Program Changes to the MHSc/MSc/PhD Programs in Public Health Sciences.

Members received the above-noted item for information. There was no discussion.

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7. Reports of the Administrative Assessors

The administrative assessors indicated that they had no report to provide at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Secretary

Chair

March 29, 2004

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