# UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

# THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

# REPORT NUMBER 108 OF THE COMMITTEE ON

# ACADEMIC POLICY AND PROGRAMS

## May 12, 2004

To the Academic Board,
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it held a meeting on Wednesday, May 12, 2004 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 Cheryl Regehr
Professor Vivek Goel, Interim Vice-
  President and Provost
Professor David Farrar, Vice-Provost,
  Students
Professor Rona Abramovitch
Mr. Syed W. Ahmed
Mr. Bruce G. Cameron
Dr. Inez N. Elliston
Professor Anthony Haasz
Professor Wayne Hindmarsh

Mr. Martin Hyrcza
Professor Ronald Kluger
Professor James Lepock
Ms Vera Melnyk
Miss Maureen Somerville
Professor Tas Venetsanopoulos

**Non-Voting Assessors:**
Professor Carolyn Tuohy, Vice-President,
  Government and Institutional Relations
Ms Karel Swift, Registrar

Secretariat:

Mr. Andrew Drummond, Secretary

Regrets:

Professor Derek Allen
Mr. Frank Belluardo
Ms Rochelle Fernandes
Professor Faith Fich
Ms Ranjini Ghosh

Ms Maritza Jackman
Professor David Jenkins
Professor Alexandra Johnston
Professor Brian Cantwell Smith
Professor Dennis Thiessen

In Attendance:

Mr. Rodney Branch, Information Systems Coordinator, School of Graduate Studies
Professor Nancy Dengler, Graduate Coordinator, Department of Botany
Professor Luigi Girolametto, Graduate Coordinator, Graduate Department of Speech-
  Language Pathology
Professor Bernard Katz, Associate Dean, Division I, School of Graduate Studies
Dr. Christopher Lind, Director, Toronto School of Theology

ITEM 5 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 – March 3, 2004**

Report Number 107 of the meeting of March 3, 2004 was approved.

3.      **Business Arising**

There was no business arising from the previous meeting.


4.      **School of Graduate Studies: Proposal for an In-Program Master of Philosophy Degree (M.Phil.)**

The Chair welcomed Professor Bernard Katz, Associate Dean, Division I, School of Graduate Studies to the meeting.

Professor Goel summarized the proposed degree, noting that the proposal had undergone extensive discussions in the School of Graduate Studies system, with two discussions at each of the four divisional councils and two additional discussions at full School Council. He noted that if passed, the M.Phil. would be the sole 'in-program' degree available at the University of Toronto; furthermore, he noted that if the proposal were approved, it would be up to each Department to determine whether an M.Phil. would be an appropriate offering.

There was a lengthy discussion, during which members raised the following questions, which were answered by Professor Katz as indicated:

- What was the academic value of an 'in-program' degree?
  - The M.Phil. was an academically legitimate degree offered by numerous universities in both the United States and the United Kingdom. Many of the University of Toronto's peer institutions offered the degree, and it conferred some standing for students with 'ABD' ('All but dissertation') standing. It was of highest advantage to those students in direct-entry Ph.D. programs who had bypassed a Master's degree and required some indication that significant graduate-level work had been satisfactorily completed.
- What would the cost for the certificate be?
  - The granting of the degree would not carry with it a charge, but a fee for the preparation of the parchment would be charged to recover costs.
- Was the granting of the M.Phil. not an award for the 'non-completion' of a program, rather than a testament to the positive completion of a program? By consequence, was the M.Phil. not a vague qualification?
  - The M.Phil. was designed to be a positive qualification, representing completion of significant effort. For example, an 'ABD' in most Ph.D. programs would represent completion of a greater degree of study than an M.A. or M.Sc. The M.Phil. would mark that investment of time and scholarly

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4. **School of Graduate Studies: Proposal for an In-Program Master of**
**Philosophy Degree (M.Phil.)** (cont'd.)

endeavour.  The M.Phil. would not be granted to students who failed in their
doctoral studies.
- Was the M.Phil., as proposed, equivalent to other M.Phil. programs?
    o The School of Graduate Studies believed that it was.
- Would the completion of an M.Phil. be shorthand for 'dropped out of a doctoral
program'?  Would the introduction of the degree have the unintended consequence
of encouraging doctoral-program dropouts?
    o Experience at other universities indicated that the M.Phil. was a 'morale
    booster' in doctoral programs.
- Was it appropriate for the University to grant a degree that it would not confer at
convocation?
    o The degree would be conferred at Convocation *in absentia*.
- What was the reaction from OCGS?
    o The School would be meeting OCGS officials in the near future to discuss the
    matter.
- Which body would decide whether it was appropriate to offer an M.Phil.?
    o The Divisional Executive in the School of Graduate Studies would make that
    determination.
- Would inequity result if the program were offered in some programs but not in
others, given that the M.Phil. would not be a 'designed' degree?
    o The variations in graduate programs was so great that proving or disproving
    inequity would be practically impossible.
- Would there be any negative repercussions resulting from the fact that some
students might be granted degrees for which they did not register, while others who
had performed equivalent work in similar Ph.D. programs would not be granted it?
    o That would be one of the consequences with the approval of an M.Phil.

Members indicated that the proposal needed to indicate the following:
- A clearly defined set of criteria to determine the completion point of an M.Phil.;
- A response to the concern that the proposal introduced a level of inequity in
graduate programs;
- A more complete response to the concern that the degree represented a reward for
non-completion of doctoral programs.

On motion duly moved and seconded,

YOUR  COMMITTEE  REFERRED BACK TO ADMINISTRATION

the proposal for an in-program Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) degree,
with the advice that the proposal include the following:

- A clearly defined set of criteria to determine the completion point of
an M.Phil.;
- A response to the concern that the proposal introduced a level of
inequity in graduate programs;
- A more complete response to the concern that the degree represented
a reward for non-completion of doctoral programs; and
- Additional supporting documentation from the School of Graduate
Studies on the reasons for its support of the degree.

**5.     Toronto School of Theology (TST): Memorandum of Agreement -
        Amendments**

The Chair welcomed Dr. Christopher Lind, Director, Toronto School of Theology, to the
meeting, and then invited Professor Carolyn Tuohy, Vice-President, Government and
Institutional Relations, to introduce the Memorandum of Agreement.

Professor Tuohy summarized the principal changes in the Agreement, noting that it had
been altered to allow for minor changes in schedules without reopening the agreement
every time a change was required, which required governance approvals at the University,
the School, and all the member institutions.  A new Joint Committee would handle routine
changes, while major changes (such as budgetary formula) to a new schedule 'D' would
require approval at all the institutions.

She then noted that the University of Toronto's academic appeal processes would be used
where necessary; this change would clarify a currently vague jurisdictional matter.

A member noted that the cover letter referred to a 'Memorandum of Understanding';
Professor Tuohy clarified that it should refer to a 'Memorandum of Agreement' (or
'MOA') in all cases.

> On motion duly moved and seconded,
>
> YOUR  COMMITTEE  RECOMMENDS
>
> THAT the Memorandum of Agreement between the University of Toronto and
> the Toronto School of Theology, dated May 4, 2004, a copy of which is attached
> hereto as Appendix "A", be approved for implementation July 1, 2004.

**6.     School of Graduate Studies: Proposal from the Department of Botany to change
        the name of the Graduate Botany Program to the "Graduate Program in Plant and
        Microbial Biology"**

The Chair welcomed Professor Nancy Dengler, Graduate Coordinator, Department of Botany,
to the meeting.  Professor Goel noted that the Department of Botany was proposing the
program's name change because of a drive to improve recruitment, and was considering a
departmental name change to be considered at a later date as part of the *Stepping UP* process.

There was a brief discussion, during which members discussed the state of microbiology
research at the University of Toronto.

> On motion duly moved and seconded,
>
> YOUR  COMMITTEE  APPROVED
>
> The Proposal from the Department of Botany to change the name of the
> Graduate Botany Program to the "Graduate Program in Plant and Microbial
> Biology", as recommended in the memorandum from the School of Graduate
> Studies dated April 15, 2004.

7.      **School of Graduate Studies: Proposal from the Department of Botany to Change**
        **the Admission Requirements of the M.Sc. and Ph.D. Degree Programs**

The Chair requested that Professor Dengler remain for discussion of this item.  There was no
discussion.

> On motion duly moved and seconded,
>
> YOUR  COMMITTEE  APPROVED
>
> The proposal, submitted by the Department of Botany, to change the admission
> requirements of the M.Sc. and Ph.D. degree programs, as recommended in the
> memorandum from the School of Graduate Studies dated April 15, 2004.

8.      **School of Graduate Studies: Proposal for the Department of Chemical Engineering**
        **and Applied Chemistry to change the admission requirements of the Ph.D. degree**
        **program**

The Chair noted for members that Professor Venetsanopoulos, Dean of Engineering, was a
member of the Committee and was present to answer questions on this item.

There was a brief discussion, during which Professor Venetsanopoulos noted that this change
was one element of a plan to align programs in Engineering.  It was clarified that the proposal
extended only to students seeking direct entry to the Ph.D. program

> On motion duly moved and seconded,
>
> YOUR  COMMITTEE  APPROVED
>
> The proposal, submitted by the School of Graduate Studies, to change the
> admission requirements of the Ph.D. degree program in the Department of
> Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry, as recommended in the
> memorandum dated April 15, 2004.

9.      **School of Graduate Studies: Proposal for the Graduate Department of Speech-**
        **Language Pathology to change the admission requirements to the Master of**
        **Science degree program**

The Chair welcomed Professor Luigi Girolametto, Graduate Coordinator, Graduate Department
of Speech-Language Pathology, to the meeting.

During discussion, a member questioned the meaning of the term 'residency' in the context of
the program under discussion.  Professor Girolametto responded that residency was defined as
living within geographic proximity that would enable regular attendance at courses and
seminars offered in the program.  He further noted that, in the history of the program, no student
had chosen to pursue the program with two years' residency, and that the change proposed was
uncontroversial.

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9.     **School of Graduate Studies: Proposal for the Graduate Department of Speech-Language Pathology to change the admission requirements to the Master of Science degree program**  (cont'd.)

> On motion duly moved and seconded,
>
> YOUR  COMMITTEE  APPROVED
>
> The proposal, submitted by the School of Graduate Studies, to change the admission requirements for the Master of Science degree program in Speech-Language Pathology, as recommended in the memorandum from the School of Graduate Studies dated April 15, 2004.

10.     **Annual Report on Student Awards Established, Amended and Withdrawn: July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003**

Members received the annual report on Student Awards Established, Amended and Withdrawn. There was a brief discussion, during which Ms Swift noted that the names of individuals who had endowed awards had not been included as they had in the past.  A member congratulated Ms Swift for the adoption of effective means of protecting the privacy of donors.

11.      **Items for Information**
      **(a) School of Graduate Studies: Graduate Grading and Evaluation Practices Policy – Deletion of Section**
      **(b) School of Graduate Studies: Proposal from the Faculty of Dentistry for a Course-Work Only Option in the M.Sc. Program in Dentistry**
      **(c) School of Graduate Studies: Proposal for a Collaborative Master's Program in Community Development**
      **(d) School of Graduate Studies: Proposal for the Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning to change the program requirements of the M.A., Ed.D. and Ph.D. Degrees in the Curriculum program.**

Members received the above-noted items for information.  There was a brief discussion, during which a member requested and received clarification of the reason for the deletion of the section in item 11 (a).

12.     **Reports of the Administrative Assessors**

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

13.     **Date of Next Meeting – TBA (June 2004)**

The Chair noted that an additional meeting of the Committee would be scheduled for June to deal with the report of the University Program Review Audit Committee (UPRAC) and the annual report on program reviews.

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**14.      Other Business**

There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

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Secretary                                              Chair

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