

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL
REPORT NUMBER 104 OF THE COMMITTEE ON
ACADEMIC POLICY AND PROGRAMS

December 3, 2003

To the Academic Board,
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it held a meeting on Wednesday, December 3, 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 Cheryl Regehr, Vice-Chair
Professor Carolyn Tuohy, Vice President,
Policy Development and Associate
Provost
Professor Vivek Goel, Deputy Provost
Dr. John G. Challis, Vice-President,
Research and Associate Provost
Professor Rona Abramovitch
Mr. Syed W. Ahmed
Professor Derek Allen
Mr. Bruce Cameron
Professor Faith Fich
Professor Anthony Haasz
Professor Wayne Hindmarsh
Mr. Martin Hyrcza

Ms Maritza Jackman
Professor Alexandra Johnston
Professor Ronald Kluger
Professor James Lepock
Ms Vera Melnyk
Miss Maureen Somerville
Professor Dennis Thiessen

Non-Voting Assessors:

Ms Karel Swift, University Registrar

Secretariat:

Mr. Andrew Drummond, Secretary

Regrets:

Mr. Frank Belluardo
Mr. Bruce G. Cameron
Dr. Inez N. Elliston

Ms Rochelle Fernandes
Professor David Jenkins
Professor Robert Reisz
Professor Tas Venetsanopoulos

In Attendance:

Professor Kenneth Bartlett, Director, Office of Teaching Advancement
Professor Umberto De Boni, Associate Dean, Division IV, School of Graduate Studies
Professor Diane Doran, Faculty of Nursing
Ms Pamela Gravestock, Assistant Director, Office of Teaching Advancement

ALL 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.

It was agreed that the agenda be reordered to accommodate resolution of technical difficulties.

2. Report of the Previous Meeting – October 15, 2003

Report Number 103 of the meeting of October 15, 2003 was approved.

3. School of Graduate Studies: Proposal from the Department of Adult Education and Counselling Psychology to change the name of the Adult Education Program to the Adult Education and Community Development Program

Members considered a proposal from the Department of Adult Education and Counselling Psychology, submitted by the School of Graduate Studies, to change the name of the Adult Education Program to the Adult Education and Community Development Program.

Professor Tuohy introduced the item.

There was no discussion.

On motion duly moved and seconded,

YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED

A proposal from the Department of Adult Education and Counselling Psychology, submitted by the School of Graduate Studies, to change the name of the Adult Education Program to the Adult Education and Community Development Program, to take effect immediately.

4. Office of Teaching Advancement: Annual Report 2002-2003

The Chair welcomed Professor Kenneth Bartlett, Director, Office of Teaching Advancement (OTA), and Ms Pamela Gravestock, Assistant Director. Professor Goel noted that OTA was a relatively new Office and, as such, this was its first report to the Committee. Professor Bartlett presented the report highlighting the following points:

- The mandate of OTA was over time to provide institutional support to the idea that excellence in teaching and learning in its multitude of forms was emphasized highly throughout the institution;
- OTA would strengthen ways of recognizing excellent teachers;
- OTA would develop a support network throughout the St George campus and work with the UTSC and UTM Offices to assist instructors in developing and continually improving their teaching capabilities; and
- Programs would emphasize the following points:

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4. Office of Teaching Advancement: Annual Report 2002-2003 (cont'd)

- Establishment of teaching mentors;
- Orientation for new faculty members; and
- Orientation for stipendiary instructors.

There was a brief discussion, during which members raised several issues:

- the importance of OTA assisting both faculty members and administrators in developing meaningful criteria for the evaluation of instruction;
- OTA continuing to assist instructors in developing teaching dossiers to improve their career paths;
- the value of encouraging faculty members to take risks without the threat of punishment for risks that happen to fail;
- OTA should help to ensure that members of the University community are aware of studies that indicate that instructor evaluation differs depending on a variety of factors;
- Governance accountability for evaluation of instruction should be clear and well-defined; and
- Evaluations of teaching effectiveness should rely upon a variety of sources.

The Chair thanked Professor Bartlett and Ms Gravestock.

5. Vice-President, Research and Associate Provost – Annual Report 2002-2003 and Plan 2003-2004

The Chair invited Professor Challis to present the Annual Report of the Vice-President, Research and Associate Provost.

Professor Challis gave a presentation indicating a variety of research performance indicators analyzing the University of Toronto's research output against other Canadian and North American universities, noting that while the University was by most measures a very highly productive research institution, it would be necessary to continue to pursue a high degree of excellence to meet ambitious targets for the future, especially the target to triple commercialization of research.

There was a considerable discussion, during which members raised the following issues:

- The citation index used remains problematic because of the lack of a meaningful 'impact factor'; Professor Tuohy would be requested to analyze data into a more meaningful indicator than strict citations;
- The University of Toronto would need to be a strong advocate at the provincial, federal and international levels;
- Benchmarks for the three principal areas of research were different and administrators would need to be sensitive to the differences;
- Extensive detailed analysis of existing and new data would be required for a more meaningful picture;
- The University would have to play a strong role in defining the appropriate metrics for research, or otherwise inappropriate ones might be used instead; and
- Analysis of research excellence would need to continue to be performed in conjunction with analysis of overall excellence in mission, including teaching.

The Chair thanked Professor Challis for his presentation.

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6. Items for Information

The following items were presented for information.

- (i) School of Graduate Studies: Proposal for a Collaborative Master's and PhD Program in Health Services and Policy Research
- (ii) School of Graduate Studies: Proposal to Modify the Collaborative Program in Toxicology
- (iii) School of Graduate Studies: Program Requirement Change to the PhD Program, Department of East Asian Studies
- (iv) School of Graduate Studies: Proposal to Establish a New Non-Grade Course Report 'TRF' (Program Transfer)

Professor Umberto de Boni, Associate Dean, School of Graduate Studies, and Professor Diane Doran, Faculty of Nursing, were present to answer questions.

Members clarified several questions they had regarding item (i).

Ms Swift noted that the reason for the addition of the 'TRF' grade (item (iv)) was to protect students who accelerated directly from a Master's program to a doctoral program and therefore had to withdraw from Master's-level courses to meet the requirements of a new program.

The Chair thanked the guests for attending.

7. Reports of the Administrative Assessors

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee, congratulated Professor Tuohy on her appointment as Vice-President, Government and Institutional Relations, which would take effect in February 2004.

He then noted that Professor Goel would assume Professor Tuohy's role as Senior Assessor to the Committee.

Professor Goel updated the Committee on the status of the new Academic Plan, noting that *Stepping UP* as a whole would not require the Committee's approval but many policy changes resulting from it would need to be considered by the Committee, including matters relating to quality of education and research.

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

Secretary

Chair

January 6, 2004