

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL
REPORT NUMBER 113 OF THE COMMITTEE ON
ACADEMIC POLICY AND PROGRAMS

February 2, 2005

To the Academic Board,
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it held a meeting on Wednesday, February 2, 2005 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 Edith Hillan, Vice-Provost,
Academic
Professor David Farrar, Deputy Provost and
Vice-Provost, Students
Professor Rona Abramovitch
Professor Stewart Aitchison
Professor Derek Allen
Ms Janice Bayani
Professor Mary Chipman
Professor Luc De Nil

Professor Wayne K. Hindmarsh
Professor Ronald H. Kluger
Ms Vera Melnyk
Mr. Stefan A. Neata
Miss Maureen Somerville

Ms. Karel Swift, University Registrar

Secretariat:

Mr. Neil Dobbs
Mr. Andrew Drummond, Secretary

Regrets:

Professor Pamela Catton
Professor David Clandfield
Mr. Senai Iman
Professor Barbara Sherwood Lollar
Professor Robert Reisz
Professor Dennis Thiessen

Ms Maple Chong
Dr. Inez N. Elliston
Ms Leigh Honeywell
Mr. Raza M. Mirza
Professor John Scherk

In Attendance:

Mr. George Altmeyer, Assistant Dean, Registrar and Faculty Secretary, Faculty of Arts and Science
Professor Diane Horton, Associate Chair, Undergraduate Studies, Department of Computer Science
Ms. Helen Lasthiotakis, Director of Policy and Planning, Office of the Vice-President and Provost

ITEM 4 CONTAINS A RECOMMENDATION TO THE ACADEMIC BOARD. ALL OTHER ITEMS ARE REPORTED FOR INFORMATION.

1. Report of the Previous Meeting

A member requested that remarks he made concerning the Report 112 of the meeting of January 12, 2005 concerning the program in Bioinformatics discussed under agenda item 3 be included. Report 112 was approved, as amended.

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2. Business Arising from the Report of the Previous Meeting

There was no business arising.

3. Faculty of Arts and Science, St. George Campus: Calendar Changes, 2005-2006

The Chair welcomed Mr. George Altmeyer, Faculty Secretary, Faculty of Arts and Science, and Professor Diane Horton, Undergraduate Chair, Department of Computer Science, to the meeting.

The Chair informed members that an earlier, incorrect version of the proposal before members was withdrawn from consideration at the meeting of January 12, 2005. Professor Hillan introduced the proposal, noting that the program under consideration would provide more options and greater flexibility for students in Computer Science.

The Chair noted an error in the cover letter, in that the proposal had not proceeded to either the Humanities or Social Sciences Curriculum Committees.

A member asked how the strength of individual students in C++ or Java was assessed. Professor Horton noted that the strength of individual secondary schools' training was too varied, unlike for many subjects, and that the requirements represented no change. She noted that a combination of self-assessment, advisory assessment, and remedial lessons were all available. The member suggested that future years' Calendar copy include an expanded description of available resources.

The Chair noted that the proposal reflected the least specialized of numerous programs in Computer Science, and, taken within that context, was much clearer.

On motion duly moved and seconded,

YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED

the new Computer Science Specialist program as described in the submission from the Faculty of Arts and Science, St. George Campus, dated January 17, 2005, effective for the academic year 2005-2006.

4. Statement of Commitment Regarding International Students

Professor Farrar informed the Committee that international students added considerable value to the learning experience of the student body and provided domestic students exposure to other countries, cultures and systems. The Administration was committed to the ongoing strengthening of recruitment efforts internationally. The Policy currently in force regarding international students had not been updated since 1987 and had recently undergone a review.

The results of the review were that the Administration was recommending the replacement of the Policy on Foreign Students with the new Statement of Commitment Regarding International Students. Professor Farrar informed the Committee that the University remained committed to improving scholarships for international students and would design programs for financial emergencies and reaffirm their availability.

Discussion focused on two areas not directly related to the Committee's mandate in considering the policy:

- The ability of divisions to meet the funding guarantee for doctoral students, and individual issues that would be faced if international doctoral students faced higher tuition levels; and

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4. Statement of Commitment Regarding International Students (cont'd.)

- The methods by which the budget for recruitment of international students would be developed, the sources of funds to be used, the framework for development of a tuition model for international students, and the regulatory environment in effect for professional schools *vis-à-vis* recruitment of international students.

The Chair reminded members that, strictly speaking, budgetary concerns were not part of the Committee's mandate, but that he would allow the discussion given its immediate relevance to the proposal at hand.

The Chair noted that, in his opinion, the changes did not appear substantive. In particular, he noted with concern that the Statement removed reference to academic merit's status as the primary criterion for admission. The Registrar noted that the criterion was still in the *Policies and Principles for Admission to the University of Toronto* and that the *Statement* did not, therefore, require that language to be duplicated.

On motion duly moved and seconded,

YOUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED

That the *Statement of Commitment on International Students*, as set out in Appendix "A", be approved, superseding the 1987 *Policy on Foreign Students*.

5. Vice-Provost, Students: Report on Student Financial Support, 2003-2004

The Chair informed members that the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs was the locus of accountability for the fulfillment of the University's policy commitment that no student admitted to the University should be unable to complete his or her studies on financial grounds. As part of the Committee's role, it was charged to hear annually a report from the Vice-Provost, Students on Student Financial Support and to offer comment on how the University's commitments were being met.

Professor Farrar informed members that the format of the report was unchanged from the previous year's, and that the recently imposed tuition freeze had cut off a major source of funding for increases for student financial support, since one-third of the increase in tuition fee revenue was dedicated to student aid. In total, \$43.7 million were expended on student financial support, having risen from \$34.7 million over three years. That rise, however, was expected to level off because of the freeze in tuition and the elimination of the OSOTF. He referred members to Appendix 5 of the Report, which indicated that the University was meeting its commitment.

A member asked why the level of student support at the University of Toronto at Scarborough (UTSC) was so much higher than at the other two campuses. Professor Farrar and Ms. Swift responded that the nature of the student body at UTSC, combined with the existence of the trimester system, meant that the level of support needed was greater. Professor Farrar noted further that differences between and among various divisions strongly supported the need for student aid to be administered centrally.

A member asked why the reliance on parental income seemed to be rising and the reliance on the Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) declining. Professor Farrar responded that the proportion of students qualifying for OSAP was declining because the assessment criteria for OSAP loans had not changed in 11 years. He added that he hoped the Report of the Rae Commission, currently in its final stages, would bring about improvements. Professor Farrar reported that the proportion of students reporting total parental income of under \$50,000 was rising, and that he could not explain how that was occurring.

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5. Vice-Provost, Students: Report on Student Financial Support, 2003-2004 (cont'd.)

A member noted that, because of the lack of funds available from governmental sources, the ability of the University to meet its commitment to needy students would likely be placed under strain without alteration. Professor Farrar agreed with her observation.

Members then discussed two issues of concern in the data that were not directly related to the University's financial support of students, namely, that the classification of 'visible minority' students would become increasingly archaic in a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic environment, and that the decline in the proportion of young men pursuing University study would have long-term negative effects. Professor Farrar noted that the definition of 'visible minority' was the same as that used in the *Employment Equity Act*, which was the most standard and commonly understood definition.

A member asked about the discrepancy between funding for Transitional Year Program (TYP) students from the previous reporting year to the current. Professor Farrar responded that the discrepancy resulted from differences in individual needs assessment.

6. Reports of the Administrative Assessors

There were no reports from the Administrative Assessors.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for March 9, 2005.

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Secretary

Chair

February 7, 2005