

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**  
**THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**  
**REPORT NUMBER 165 OF THE COMMITTEE ON**  
**ACADEMIC POLICY AND PROGRAMS**

**January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

To the Academic Board,  
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it met on Tuesday, October 29, 2013 at 4:10 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Simcoe Hall, with the following present:

Professor Douglas McDougall (Chair)  
Professor Elizabeth Peter (Vice-Chair)  
Professor Sioban Nelson, Vice-Provost,  
Academic Programs  
Professor Brian Corman, Vice-Provost,  
Graduate Education and Dean,  
School of Graduate Studies  
Professor Zhong-Ping Feng  
Mr. Andrew Girgis  
Ms Jessica Ng  
Dr. Graeme Norval  
Ms Daisy Qin  
Ms Jennifer Raso

Ms Catherine Riddell  
Professor Michael Ratcliffe  
Professor Elizabeth M. Smyth  
Professor Markus Stock  
Professor Scott Thomas  
Professor Steven J. Thorpe  
Ms Aditi Ratho  
Professor Sandy Welsh

Secretariat:  
Mr. David Walders, Acting Secretary

Regrets:

Professor Jan Barnsley  
Ms Sara Dolcetti  
Professor Paul Kingston  
Mr. Yingxiang Li  
Dr. Gary P. Mooney  
Professor Emmanuel Nikiema  
Professor Russell Pysklywec  
Professor Vincent Tropepe  
Professor Cameron Walter

In Attendance:

Professor Jennifer Campbell, Senior Lecturer, Department, Computer Science  
Professor Alison Gibbs, Associate Chair for Undergraduate Studies in Statistics  
Professor Paul Gries, Senior Lecturer, Department of Computer Science  
Dr. Jane E. Harrison, Director, Academic Programs and Policy, Office of the  
Vice-President and Provost  
Ms Laurie Harrison, Director, Online Learning Strategies  
Professor Steve Joordans, Department of Psychology

ALL ITEMS ARE REPORTED FOR INFORMATION.

**1. Program Closure, UTSC: Minor in French for Francophones (B.A.)**

The Chair noted that, on November 13, 2013, the University of Toronto Scarborough, Academic Affairs Committee recommended to AP&P that the closure of this minor be approved.

Professor Sioban Nelson, Vice-Provost, Academic Programs, explained that enrolment in this freestanding minor in French had been extremely low. Francophone students who may have been interested in this program could receive a very similar experience by enrolling in the remaining Specialist, Major, and Minor programs in French which would continue to be offered. Students currently enrolled in the program would be able to complete the program and/or consult with the Undergraduate Assistant or the Associate Director (French) to discuss alternative program requirements. She concluded that the closure of this program would have no negative impact on faculty or staff.

On motion duly moved, seconded, and carried

**IT WAS RESOLVED**

THAT the proposed closure of the Minor in French for Francophones, as described in the attached proposal from the University of Toronto Scarborough, dated October 10, 2013, be approved, with an effective date of April 1, 2014 for the closure of admissions, and an anticipated program closure date of June 1, 2016.

**2. Academic Presentation: Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC's)**

Professor Nelson provided introductory remarks to the presentation. She noted that there had been substantial media coverage regarding online learning in general and Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) in particular. The University of Toronto had been recognized as a leader in the development of and research on new innovations in these areas provincially, nationally and internationally. The MOOCs had attracted international participation, and feedback from students and instructors was very positive. The University is exploring ways in which these experiences can be leveraged to benefit students enrolled in University of Toronto degree courses, and this is the focus of today's presentation.

Ms Laurie Harrison, Director, Online Learning Strategies, explained that there were currently 13 MOOC "coursettes" offered by the University, as well a number of MOOC research programs, including those which had received funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. She introduced the following Professors to comment on their personal experience with MOOC's and online learning more generally:

- Professor Alison Gibbs, Associate Chair for Undergraduate Studies in Statistics
- Professor Jennifer Campbell, Senior Lecturer, Department, Computer Science
- Professor Paul Gries Senior Lecturer, Department of Computer Science
- Professor Steve Joordans, Department of Psychology

The presenters discussed their personal experiences instructing MOOC's and the inverted classroom model, and praised the positive impact these initiatives had on pedagogy and student engagement in University of Toronto courses. All discussed the advantages to the student learning experience that were realized by the inverted classroom model and blended learning environments. Overall, student feedback was very positive and suggested that the inverted classroom could provide an enriched student learning experience. In one instance, the inverted classroom model allowed for an increase in the "drop-in" hours held by teaching assistants, providing students with greater access to one-on-one help as needed.

A member inquired about wider benefits to the University as a result of the success realized with MOOC's. Professor Nelson responded that the national and global reputation of the University had been bolstered by the success of the MOOC's and it had provided an invaluable opportunity for pedagogical research.

A member inquired as to whether there were plans to offer MOOC's as for-credit course. Professor Nelson replied that innovation, leadership and research were the foci of University of Toronto's participation in MOOC's and there were no plans to offer MOOC's as for-credit courses.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

On motion duly moved, seconded, and carried

**YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED**

THAT the consent agenda be adopted and items approved.

- 3. Report of the Previous Meeting: Report 164 – October 29, 2013**
- 4. Business Arising from the Report of the Previous Meeting**
- 5. Date of Next Meeting – February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 4:10 p.m.**
- 6. Reports of the Administrative Assessors**

There were no reports from the Administrative Assessors.

**7. Other Business**

There were no other items of business.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

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Secretary

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Chair

January 15, 2014