

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO MISSISSAUGA CAMPUS COUNCIL  
REPORT NUMBER 21 OF THE ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**APRIL 25, 2017**

To the Campus Council,  
University of Toronto Mississauga

Your Committee reports that it held a meeting on April 25, 2017 at 4:10 p.m. in the Council Chambers, William G. Davis Building, at which the following were present:

Professor Judith Poë, Chair  
Professor Ulli Krull, Interim Vice-President  
& Principal  
Professor Amrita Daniere, Vice-Principal  
Academic and Dean  
Professor Bryan Stewart, Vice-Principal,  
Research  
Ms Celina Baines  
Professor Tracey Bowen  
Professor Norm Farb  
Ms Elaine Goettler  
Professor Claudiu Gradinaru  
Professor Sanja Hinic-Frlog  
Ms Shelley Hawrychuk  
Professor Rosa Hong  
Professor Nathan Innocente  
Professor Stephen Kudla  
Professor Michael Lettieri  
Professor Heather Miller  
Professor Kent Moore  
Professor Emmanuel Nikiema  
Professor Andrea Olive  
Dr. Christoph Richter  
Professor Manfred Schneider  
Professor Alison Syme  
Professor David Smith  
Professor Mihkel Tombak  
Mr. Glenn Thompson  
Professor Anthony Wensley  
Mr. Jose Wilson  
Professor Kathi Wilson  
Professor Liye Xie  
Dr. Daniel Zingaro

**Non-Voting Assessors:**

Mr. Mark Overton, Dean of Student Affairs  
Ms Yen Du, Program and Curriculum  
Officer

**Regrets:**

Professor James Allen  
Professor Gordon Anderson  
Mr. Anshul Bhatnagar  
Professor Liza Blake  
Professor Aurel Braun  
Professor Ron Buliung  
Ms Diane Crocker  
Mr. Zakk Dodge  
Ms Salma Fakhry  
Professor Kajri Jain  
Professor Stuart Kamenetsky  
Ms Renu Kanga Fonseca  
Mr. Jay Nirula  
Professor Anna Korteweg  
Ms Jennifer Park  
Professor Diana Raffman  
Ms Caitlyn Seale  
Professor Joan Simalchik  
Dr. Laura Taylor  
Professor Rebecca Wittman  
Professor Xiaodong Zhu

**In Attendance:**

Ms Nour Alideeb, President, UTMSU

Ms Lucy Gaspini, Manager, Academic Integrity & Affairs

Professor Leigh Revers, Director, Master of Biotechnology

Professor Irene Wiecek, Director, Master of Management & Professional Accounting Program (MMPA)

**Secretariat:**

Ms Cindy Ferencz Hammond, Director of Governance, Assistant Secretary of the Governing Council

Ms Mariam Ali, Governance Coordinator, UTM

**1. Chair's Remarks**

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and provided an update on the 2017 Elections. She noted that winners for the student estates had been declared on April 11, and that the list was posted on the Office of the Campus Council website. The Chair congratulated all those who had participated.

**2. Annual Report (2015-16): Academic Integrity, Office of the Dean**

The Chair informed members that this item was for information, and that the report on Academic Integrity was being presented to the Committee for consideration for the first time. In response to a question regarding the offense type listed as 'academic dishonesty', Ms Lucy Gaspini, Manager, Academic Integrity & Affairs advised that this was a category listed under the *Code of Behavior* which encompassed a variety of offenses that were not individually categorized. The high number of cases reported in the Department of Mathematics and Computational Sciences was discussed and Ms Gaspini noted that numbers fluctuated from year to year for all departments and that there had been no particular reason attributed for the high number of cases. Professor Miller, Vice-Dean, Teaching and Learning added that there was additional coaching and planning efforts being made in order to update assignments and course outlines using new and alternative strategies which would reduce instances of academic dishonesty.

**3. Presentation**

The Chair invited Ms Nour Alideeb, President of the University of Toronto Mississauga Student Union (UTMSU), to present<sup>1</sup> and explained to members that suggestions in the presentation were for discussion and feedback, but not for debate, and that any future proposals would have to be developed in conjunction with the Office of the VP Academic and Dean. Ms Alideeb noted that the UTMSU was looking to solicit feedback regarding policy amendments, which would remedy outliers in a student's cumulative G.P.A. The UTMSU suggested an update to the existing policy on re-taking courses, which would allow students to replace their current mark with a new

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<sup>1</sup> A copy of this presentation is attached as Attachment A.

and improved grade, and that would also allow the second attempt to be included in the cumulative GPA calculation. She noted that the grade of the first attempt would be indicated on the student's academic transcript, but not included in the calculation of the GPA. Ms Alideeb highlighted advantages and critiques of the suggested reforms and provided cases of academic policies at other institutions on such reforms. The Chair invited members to provide feedback to the UTMSU. A member suggested that the Union take into consideration that a change in the policy would mean that students who were not able to afford retaking courses would be disadvantaged compared to those who had the financial means to do so, therefore furthering inequality based on income rather than on merit. A member also suggested that the Union consider including examples of a course retake policy that was in line with their suggestions.

#### **4. Minor Modification: Master of Management & Professional Accounting (MMPA) Course Change**

The Chair invited Professor Irene Wiecek, Director, Master of Management & Professional Accounting Program (MMPA), to present this item. Professor Wiecek advised the Committee that the proposed change would modify an existing course offering, *MGT2282H, Integration & Professional Decision Making Initiatives*, from a regular course (offered in its entirety within one academic session) to an extended course (course work continues across more than one academic session). She noted that these changes had been reviewed and approved by the IMI Curriculum Committee in March, 2017.

On motion duly made, seconded and carried,

YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED,

THAT the course change as proposed by the Master of Management & Professional Accounting Program, offered by the Institute for Management and Innovation (IMI), recommended by the Vice-Principal Academic & Dean, Professor Amrita Danieri, and described in the proposal dated March 28, 2017, be approved, effective on May 1, 2017.

#### **5. Minor Modification: Master of Biotechnology Program (Mbiotech) Course Name Change**

The Chair invited Professor Leigh Revers, Director, Master of Biotechnology Program to present this item. Professor Revers advised members that the proposed name change was to the existing BTC1810H course from *Biotechnology & Ventures* to *Biotechnology & Drug Manufacturing*. The new course title was proposed in order to help students better understand the road from product concept to product development to commercialization. Professor Revers added that these changes had been reviewed and approved by the IMI Curriculum Committee in May, 2016.

On motion duly made, seconded and carried,

YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED,

THAT the course name change as proposed by the Master of Biotechnology Program, offered by the Institute for Management and Innovation (IMI), recommended by the Vice-Principal Academic & Dean, Professor Amrita Daniere, and described in the proposal dated March 23, 2017, be approved, effective on May 1, 2017.

#### **6. Modification to Existing Academic Regulation: UTM Credit/No Credit Policy**

The Chair invited Mr. Neil Neebar, Assistant Registrar, Student Records, Registration and Graduation to present the item. Mr. Neebar informed members that the Credit/No Credit Policy has been in place at UTM since fall of 2011. The proposal was a minor change to the existing policy, that moved the deadline to select the Credit/No Credit option from the last day to cancel a course from the academic record, to the last day of classes. Consultation with the Chairs of the academic Departments at UTM resulted in full support for this change. The UTMSU was also in support of this change. In response to a question, Mr. Neebar clarified that the deadline could not be extended past the exam period as final grades would not be ready in time for the summer semester and this would impact students' ability to enrol in courses during the summer term.

On motion duly made, seconded and carried,

YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED,

THAT the modification to the UTM Credit/No Credit Policy, proposed by the Office of the Registrar, recommended by the Vice-Principal Academic & Dean, Professor Amrita Daniere, and described in the proposal dated March 8, 2017, be approved, effective May 1, 2017.

#### **7. Annual Report UTM Library**

The Chair invited Ms Shelley Hawrychuk, Interim Chief Librarian to present<sup>2</sup> the annual report of the Library. A member inquired into what criteria was evaluated when making a decision on whether to continue purchasing academic journals. Ms Hawrychuk advised that though access to academic journals was being reduced for many other universities, this was not the case at U of T as the Provost had prioritized funds towards library acquisitions. Currently, costs were being reduced by identifying duplication of records across the University, removing abstract indexes and attempting to create a minimal impact on the collections by looking at usage patterns to remove only those that have not been in demand for a significant period of time.

#### **8. Annual Report (2015-16): Committee On Standing, Office of the Registrar**

The Chair informed members that this item was reported to the Committee for information. Members had no questions.

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<sup>2</sup> A copy of this presentation is attached as Attachment B.

## **9. Annual Report (2015-16): Academic Appeals Subcommittee**

The Chair informed members that this item was also reported to the Committee for information. Members had no questions.

## **10. Other Business**

There were no items of other business.

## **11. Assessors' Report**

– Professor Daniere provided an overview of items that would come up for consideration by the ACC in the fall of 2017. These include combined programs with the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) and a program in social coding proposed by the Institute of Communication, Culture, Information and Technology (ICCIT). She advised members that a Masters in Urban Innovation was currently in development and would be considered for external review in the coming month. She also noted that a series of program closures would come forward in the next academic year based upon recommendations from external reviews of departments. In addition Professor Daniere advised members that a proposal for the Centre on Urban Environments (CUE) to be an EDU-C would be considered by the Campus Affairs Committee and the UTM Campus Council

Professor Bryan Stewart, Vice-Principal, Research advised the Committee that faculty at UTM had done exceptionally well in recent rounds of funding. Professor Stewart noted that there had been modifications made to research awards at UTM, which aligned with career achievements, and three additional prizes had been added for junior faculty that were up for tenure in the social sciences, humanities and sciences divisions. Each one of those awards would be linked to a lectureship. Professor Stewart added that his office was also going forward with the II&TS team to create a high performance cluster on campus. He explained that due to increased digitization of research, faculty had a more significant need for performance computing. The high performance cluster would operate between desktop and super computers, and would allow researchers to test their computations at UTM before going into the lineup for super computers. Professor Stewart also invited members of the Committee to attend the Celebration of Books event, which was to be held the following day, highlighting recently published works by members of the UTM community.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

On motion duly moved, seconded, and carried

**YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED**

THAT the consent agenda be adopted and that Item 12 - Report of the Previous Meeting, be approved.

**12. Report of the Previous Meeting:** Report 20 – March 23, 2017

**13. Business Arising from the Report of the Previous Meeting**

There was no business arising from the report of the previous meeting.

**14. Date of the Next Meeting** – Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at 4:10 p.m.

The Chair thanked both Professor Angela Lange and Dr. Laura Taylor as Vice-Chairs for the Committee and the voting assessors, Professor Amrita Danieri and Professor Bryan Stewart for their efforts throughout the year in keeping the Committee informed of items of business. She also acknowledged the work of the non-voting assessors, Ms Yen Du, Program and Curriculum Officer, Office of the Dean and Mr. Mark Overton, Dean of Student Affairs as well as the work of the Secretariat. She noted to returning members that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at 4:10 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

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Secretary  
May 5, 2017

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Chair

# Academic Policy Reform

Academic Affairs Committee



**Solicit Feedback**

## Background

Students often face extenuating circumstances that negatively impact their academics

The UTMSU is proposing a policy amendment that recognizes and acknowledges the plights of student experience

The proposed policy amendments will help remedy the effect caused by outliers in students CGPA

**Results:** a Cumulative GPA that is more reflective of a student's true abilities and competence

## Existing Policy

Students are able to retake a course only once, if it has been passed

The new grade is only used to fulfill course requirements

The new grade does not contribute to CGPA

The new grade appears on a student's transcript, beside the previous mark



# Proposed Amendments

Students may retake a course in order to replace their current mark with a new, improved grade in the respective course

Mark attained in the 2nd attempt will count towards GPA and CGPA, regardless of whether it is higher or lower than the previous grade

Previous grade will not be included in GPA and CGPA

Both grades will be included in the student's academic transcript

Applies to all past courses, including program required credits

Allowed once per course, regardless if they passed or failed in the 1st attempt

Passing grade in either of the attempts will be counted as fulfilling graduation requirements

# Advantages

1. Remedy the outliers in the CGPA
2. Reverse the current penalty associated with re-attempting a course(s)
3. Benefit from an equitable policy framework in comparison to other institutions, notwithstanding the academic rigour of the University of Toronto
4. Demonstrate a level of performance in a course or subject for external reasons
5. Prioritize students mental and physical well-being

# Critiques

*1. This policy may affect the credibility of the University of Toronto*

Many excellent universities across Canada have this type of policy

The University of Toronto's world ranking will improve if more of our undergraduate students are admitted to prestigious graduate schools, and achieve substantial careers

Allows the CGPA to be more reflective of a student's abilities, helping to rectify the margin of error caused by adverse circumstances

*2. The implementation of this process will be too lengthy and costly*

This policy can be implemented throughout the university via ROSI

The student could be empowered and charged with the responsibility to declare that they wish to retake a course and use this method

This method could automatically be used when a student chooses to retake a course

Notification will be provided to the student that they can only perform task X amount of times per course or degree

*3. Abuse of the system*

The student will retain their old course mark on their academic transcript

The student will have the burden of repaying for the course

*4. This academic policy allows students to avoid probation*

There are limitations on being allowed to use the policy: once per course

The time and financial investments involved with re-taking a course would deter one from abusing this policy

The presence of the marks from the repeated courses on the transcript naturally deters one from abusing this policy

This problem is not experienced by the reputable universities aforementioned with comparable academic policies

Probation is an extreme case of chronic underperformance, often experienced in first year, which could be assessed at the end of the first year, before the

~~potential use of this academic policy~~

## Other Institutions with Similar Policies

## Cornell University

The following are excerpts from the Courses of Study Policies and Procedures webpage:

“If a course is repeated, both courses and both grades are included in the official transcript.”

“...both grades are included in the calculation of the GPA (i.e. if a course is repeated, the second course does not replace the first course on the official transcript (Cornell, 2011).”

## Harvard University

“Students who wish to repeat a course for which they have received a passing grade may do so. The second iteration of the course and its grade will appear on the transcript in brackets and will not count in any way toward degree requirements, determination of honors, or grade point average.

Students are normally allowed to repeat failed courses for both grade and credit. Note, however, that the failing grade received when the course was taken the first time remains a permanent part of the college record (Harvard, 2013).”

## Princeton University

An excerpt from Princeton's Academic Standing and Regulations:

"While the grade of F in a course normally does not mean that the particular course must be repeated, there are several instances in which a failed course must be retaken and successfully completed. This is the case for a foreign language course taken to complete the language requirement; for the courses in mathematics, physics, chemistry, and computer programming that are part of the B.S.E. degree requirements; for specific courses needed as prerequisites to enter a department or program; and for any course the successful completion of which is required of the concentrators in a given department.

If a student chooses or is required to repeat a failed course, the failing grade remains on the transcript (Princeton, 2013)."

## Yale University

Excerpt from Registration and Enrollment in Courses – repeated enrollment in the same course

"Courses may not be repeated for credit, except for courses marked "May be taken more than once" or "May be repeated for credit." In such cases, the repeated course earns no additional distributional credit.

On some rare occasions, a student may take the same course over again, or may take a course with the same content as another course the student has already passed. In such cases, the student receives credit for the course only once. Should a student take the same or an equivalent course twice, each course with its grade appears on the transcript. The student receives course credit for the higher grade if one is earned; in such an event, course credit is not given for the lower grade. Note, however, that both grades are included in the calculation of a student's grade point average (GPA) and in the calculation for General Honors (Yale, 2013)."

## Why This Matters

Prioritize Mental Well-Being



## Primary factors impeding academic performance

	U of T	Canadian Peers
<b>Stress</b>	43%	42%
<b>Anxiety</b>	33%	32%
<b>Sleep difficulties</b>	26%	28%
<b>Internet use/computer games</b>	22%	20%
<b>Depression</b>	21%	21%
<b>Cold/flu sore throat</b>	17%	20%
<b>Work</b>	17%	16%
<b>Concern for family member</b>	15%	15%
<b>Relationship difficulties</b>	12%	13%
<b>Co-curricular activities</b>	10%	10%

This chart highlights the major areas affecting academic performance. The three highest factors were stress, anxiety and sleep difficulties. Compared to our Canadian Peers, we score very similarly except for slightly lower in cold/flu and sleep difficulties and slightly higher in Internet use/computer games.

University of Toronto (2016) Student Health and Well-Being at the University of Toronto: A report on the findings from the National College Health Assessment. Retrieved April 20th, 2017. <http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/Assets/Provost+Digital+Assets/National+College+Health+Assessment2.pdf>

	U of T	Canadian Peers
<b>Overwhelmed by all you had to do</b>	88%	89%
<b>Exhausted</b>	87%	88%
<b>Very sad</b>	73%	74%
<b>Very lonely</b>	67%	68%
<b>Overwhelming anxiety</b>	64%	64%
<b>Hopeless</b>	62%	60%
<b>Overwhelming anger</b>	47%	45%
<b>So depressed (hard to function)</b>	45%	44%
<b>Considered suicide</b>	12%	12%
<b>Intentionally injured</b>	8%	8%
<b>Attempted suicide</b>	2%	2%

University of Toronto (2016) Student Health and Well-Being at the University of Toronto: A report on the findings from the National College Health Assessment. Retrieved April 20th, 2017. <http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/Assets/Provost+Digital+Assets/National+College+Health+Assessment2.pdf>



# University of Toronto Mississauga Library

Shelley Hawrychuk, Interim Chief Librarian

April 25, 2017



## Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Strategic Plan
  1. Make Learning Happen
  2. Maximize Our Value
  3. Inspire with Spaces
  4. Discover Our Collections
  5. Connect to Research
3. Challenges
4. Questions



<https://library.utm.utoronto.ca/sites/utm-edit.library.utoronto.ca/files/strategicplan2017.pdf>



**Liaison librarians** work closely with **faculty** and our campus partners to create teaching collaborations within the classroom and throughout the campus

- Instruction sessions 2015-16: 367
- Participants: 13,983
  
- Research consultations
  
- LibGuide views 2015-16: 110,834
- LibGuide views 2016-April 2017 168,387

Doing Digital History

<http://guides.library.utoronto.ca/c.php?g=611185&p=4262547>

The **Library** has its own programming and also works with **campus partners** to support transition, orientation and information literacy initiatives including:

- **Library Academy** – a unique library certificate program offering sessions such as fake news, digital security, and advanced subject programs such as the importance of primary documents
- **Library Ambassador Program**

#### **Campus partners**

- **RGASC** – through their PART, Head Start, PASS programs, etc.
- **Office of Student Transition** – Launch program
- **AccessABILITY Resource Centre**

## Reference Service

The Library is a destination both physically and virtually

- **Reference and Research Desk**

- Ref transactions
  - 2015-16 12,000
- Total assists – (total including reference, technical and directional)
  - 2015-16 21,000
  - 2016-17 58,000

Provide service to students through email and chat services at UTML and as part of the chat team for the Ontario Universities chat service

- Total chats 2015-16 1547

Worked with students from over 510 different courses

## Services to support teaching and learning

- **Short Term Loan** (Reserves) (includes textbooks, laptops and accessories) - 2015-16
  - 90,573 loans
- **Syllabus Service** - 2015-16
  - 216 syllabi
  - 588 scanned documents
  - 1180 hyperlinked articles
- **Resource Sharing**
  - Borrowing materials from across the University and from around the world

## Services to support teaching and learning...cont'd

- **Accessibility to technology** – 2015-16
  - 342,077 unique logins (includes all areas of the Library)
  - Most logins in March 2016 - 53,149
  - Laptops and accessories were loaned 56,331 times
- **Blackboard**
  - Instructional Technology group in the Library provide exceptional support to faculty and students in the use of Blackboard within the classroom
- **Data/GIS Support**
  - Support specialists work with students on course assignments, ROPs, etc.



Maximize Our Value

## Telling our Story

- **New positions**
  - Communication and Assessment Librarians
- **Better communication**
  - New communication strategies; working with UTM Advancement/Communications; Research Communications Group
- **Better statistics**
  - Robust statistics gathering strategy
  - Better reporting to required external bodies
  - Demonstrates our uniqueness at UofT

## Telling our Story...cont'd

- **Partnerships**
  - Celebration of Books
  - Science Literacy Week
- **Uniqueness of our work at UTM**
  - Reference model
  - Liaison model – unique at UTM
  - Conferences; presentations
  - Novelties
  - United Way Book Sale



# Inspire With Spaces

- **Gate Counts**

- 1,382,826 visits in 2015-16
- Many days over 10,000 visits

- **Renovations**

- Reference changes, staff spaces
- 1<sup>st</sup> Floor
- ASC spaces

- **Campus Spaces**

- LKCFLC
- Arts and Cultural Centre





# Discover Our Collections

## Collections

Office1

- **Collection Development**
  - Both locally and as part of the tri-campus collection team
    - Contribute to the costs of digital products for UofT Libraries
  - Continue to add to the UTM collection both print and digital
  - UTM collection development is curriculum based
  
- **Total collection transactions**
  - 2015-16                      135,746

## Slide 16

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Office1 Shelley to fill in gaps here

Microsoft Office User, 07/04/2017

## Quality of Collections

- **Richness of UofT collection**
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> in North America
- **Uniqueness both at UTM and UofT**
  - Primary documents – Adam Matthew Digital
  - Media collection at UTM and downtown
  - Unique print collections at UTM, e.g., Criminology, South Asian
  - Novelties collection at UTM
  - FADIS
  - Archives



Connect to Research

- **Librarians are researchers and authors**
- **Librarians work with faculty and staff to support research across the campus and university**
  - ROPs
  - Scholarly Communication
    - T-Space
  - Copyright
  - Intellectual property
  - Open Access
  - RDM
  - Data/GIS
  - Metrics
  - Partnerships across the campus



# Challenges

- **Ability to meet demands**

- Turn-aways (October 3, 2016-March 31, 2017)  
8,491 (total unfilled: laptops, STL – gadgets, chargers, textbooks)

- **Costs of collections**

- Canadian dollar
- Costs of library materials - unsustainable

- **Stresses on infrastructure/staffing/services**

- Space/wear and tear
- Capacity in terms of staffing/librarians
- Gate counts
- Mobile shelving



Library  
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO  
MISSISSAUGA

# Questions?

Celebrating  
**10**  
YEARS  
Hazel McCallion Academic  
Learning Centre