



FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: Governing Council

SPONSOR: Susan McCahan, Vice Provost, Academic Programs

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PRESENTER: See above

CONTACT INFO:

DATE: December 5 for December 12, 2019

AGENDA ITEM: 12(a).(ii.)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Follow-up Reports on Reviews:

- a) Department of Arts, Culture and Media (University of Toronto Scarborough)
- b) Forensic Science Program (University of Toronto Mississauga)
- c) Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (Faculty of Arts and Science)
- d) Department of Chemistry; Pharmaceutical Chemistry Program (Faculty of Arts and Science)
- e) Department of Spanish and Portuguese; Latin American Studies Program (Faculty of Arts and Science)

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) is the point of entry into governance for reports, summaries and administrative responses on the results of reviews of academic programs and units commissioned by academic administrators. The role of the Committee is to ensure that the reviews are conducted in accordance with University policy and guidelines, that an appropriate process has been followed, that adequate documentation is provided and consultations undertaken, and that issues identified in the review are addressed by the administration. Under the University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process, the AP&P may request a one-year follow-up report when concerns are raised in an external review that require a longer period of response.

This report is forwarded, together with the record of the Committee's discussion, to the Agenda Committee of the Academic Board, which determines whether there are any issues of general academic significance warranting discussion at the Board level. The same documentation is also sent to the Executive Committee and Governing Council for information.

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. Committee on Academic Policy and Programs [for information] (October 30, 2019)
2. Agenda Committee of the Academic Board [for information] (November 12, 2019)
3. Academic Board [for information] (November 21, 2019)
4. Executive Committee of the Governing Council [for information] (December 4, 2019)
5. **Governing Council [for information] (December 12, 2019)**

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

At its meeting on November 1, 2018, AP&P considered the following reviews:

- The March 2018 review of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (Faculty of Arts and Science), and the October 2, 2018 decanal response. AP&P requested a one-year follow-up report on the outcome of the workplace review and initiatives to improve staff relations.
- The November 2017 review of the Department of Arts, Culture and Media (University of Toronto Scarborough), and the October 9, 2018 decanal response. AP&P requested a one-year follow-up report to address the development of a clear vision for the department, as well as space concerns.
- The February 2018 review of the Forensic Science Program (University of Toronto Mississauga), and the October 9, 2019 decanal response. AP&P requested a one-year follow-up report to address the medium to long-term development of the program, including the eventual establishment of an EDU and independence from the Department of Anthropology.
- The March 2018 review of the Department of Chemistry (Faculty of Arts and Science), and the October 12, 2018 decanal response. AP&P requested a one-year follow up report to provide an update on the development of a standardized research requirement within undergraduate programs.
- The February 2018 review of the Pharmaceutical Chemistry Program (Faculty of Arts and Science), and the October 18, 2018 decanal response. AP&P requested a one-year follow up report to update on the relocation of the program to the Department of Chemistry.
- The March 2018 review of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese (Faculty of Arts and Science), and the October 2, 2018 decanal response. AP&P requested a one-year follow up report to address the integration of the LAS within the Department.
- The February 2018 review of the Latin American Studies Program (Faculty of Arts and Science), and the October 2, 2018 decanal response. AP&P requested a one-year follow up report to address the possible integration of the program within the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- a) Following the 2018 external review, the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology underwent a significant workplace review and has adopted a number of initiatives to address concerns raised. Workplace civility workshops were offered to both

faculty and staff, and were very well attended. The Chair undertook a review of staff morale, meeting with all staff members individually to discuss any concerns and suggestions, and has worked to significantly increase lines of communication with staff. The Chair is working with the Vice-Dean, Faculty, Academic Life and Equity and the new Associate Chairs to further improve climate in the unit and ensure open communication with new leadership.

- b) Following receipt of the review report, the Department of Arts, Culture and Media's Policy & Planning Committee has engaged in further discussions around the development of a departmental mission statement. They note space as 'an historic problem' for the department, but highlight several recent positive developments, including planning for a new building by ~2025; renovating two existing spaces in its inventory to create a New Media and Digital Image Innovation Lab and a Sound Creativity Lab; and largely consolidating the department's presence on the 4th floor of the recently completed Highland Hall's Humanities Wing.
- c) A draft proposal is currently underway to establish an EDU:B (the Forensic Science Centre, FSC) that will formally administer existing Forensic Science programs; it is expected that the five full time faculty contributing to the program will join the EDU:B. Once established the EDU:B will explore the possibility of expanding academic offerings, specifically a professional master's program, and progressing towards EDU:A status. The program has recently hired a teaching-stream Forensic Toxicologist, is next prioritizing a hire in Forensic Epistemology; and has identified additional long-term priority hires. The planned EDU will also engage faculty in cognate units at UTM (Anthropology, Biology, Chemical & Physical Sciences, and Psychology) through cross-appointments.
- d) *Given the joint concerns raised in the Department of Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Chemistry reviews, the Faculty of Arts and Science has provided a single follow up report.*

The Department of Chemistry continues to discuss and explore approaches to providing meaningful research experience to undergraduate students. Research components are currently built into capstone courses for several programs, and future students enrolled in "Introduction to Chemistry Research" (required in several programs) will attend professional skills workshops on research topics to consolidate the consistency of research experience in the course.

The Department of Chemistry became the administrative home of the Pharmaceutical Chemistry Specialist Program, effective May 2019, assuming responsibility for all aspects of program administration. The transfer does not involve changes to admission or program requirements. A Pharmaceutical Chemistry curriculum committee has been established, and ongoing communication between Pharmaceutical Chemistry and other undergraduate Chemistry programs is being encouraged. The Chair of Chemistry will continue to explore collaborative opportunities between the Department and the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy.

- e) *Given the joint concerns raised in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and Latin American Studies reviews, the Faculty of Arts and Science has provided a single follow up report.*

The reviews of the Department of Spanish and Portuguese and Latin American Studies generated consultations resulting in a proposal to move the LAS program into the Department of Spanish and Portuguese, which received broad support from members of the Department. The Department can now offer administrative support and teaching by faculty with continuing appointments to the LAS program. LAS staff will report to the Department Chair, who is now responsible for the LAS budget. An additional 0.5 FTE staff position has been allocated to the Department to support both undergraduate programs, and a new faculty line has been allocated to support teaching in both LAS and Spanish and Portuguese. The transfer does not involve changes to admission or program requirements.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

For Information.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

- a) Department of Arts, Culture and Media (University of Toronto Scarborough) Follow-up Letter from Acting Vice-Principal, Academic & Dean Maydianne Andrade, dated September 25, 2019.
- b) Forensic Science Program (University of Toronto Mississauga) Follow-up Letter from Vice-Principal, Academic & Dean Amrita Danieri, dated September 25, 2019.
- c) Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (Faculty of Arts and Science) Follow-up Letter from Dean Melanie Woodin, dated October 2, 2019.
- d) Department of Chemistry; Pharmaceutical Chemistry Program (Faculty of Arts and Science) Follow-up Letter from Dean Melanie Woodin, dated October 2, 2019.
- e) Department of Spanish and Portuguese; Latin American Studies Program (Faculty of Arts and Science) Follow-up Letter from Dean Melanie Woodin, dated September 26, 2019.