



University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

TO: Planning and Budget Committee

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DATE: February 7, 2007 for March 6, 2007

AGENDA ITEM: 6

ITEM IDENTIFICATION

Community affiliation template agreement - for affiliation between the University of Toronto and 15 community hospitals/centres in the greater Toronto area (GTA).

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION

The Committee is responsible for reviewing and making recommendations concerning a broad range of planning issues and priorities. Matters within the Committee's scope have an impact on relationships amongst divisions and relationships between the University and the community at large. It has specific jurisdiction for approval, in principle, of the incorporation of associated organizations and research ancillaries. These areas of responsibility, as well as the more general functions of the Committee, include the intent and impact of affiliations with teaching hospitals.

Excerpt from the terms of reference for the Planning and Budget Committee:

4.5.2 The Committee recommends to the Academic Board for consideration templates for agreements with external bodies. Individual agreements that do not conform to the template are reviewed by the Committee for recommendation to the Academic Board and confirmation by the Executive Committee. [Agreements that conform to the template are approved by the Vice-President and Provost.]

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN

Between 1978 and 1998, community affiliation agreements¹ were established with the following 11 community hospitals/centres in the greater Toronto area (GTA):

- George Hull Centre for Children and Families
- Hincks-Dellcrest Centre
- Humber River Regional Hospital
- North York General Hospital
- Providence Healthcare
- The Scarborough Hospital
- St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital
- St. Joseph's Health Centre
- Surrey Place Centre
- Toronto East General and Orthopaedic Hospital
- West Park Healthcare Centre

¹ Pre 2005, these were referred to as 'partial affiliation agreements'.

In addition to the affiliation agreements with 11 community hospitals/centres, the University of Toronto currently has full affiliation agreements with the 10 full member Toronto Academic Health Science Network hospitals. The new full affiliation agreement template was approved by Planning & Budget Committee on December 5, 2006, Academic Board on January 11, 2007, and Governing Council on February 1, 2007.

HIGHLIGHTS

Although affiliation agreements are currently established and in effect with 11 community hospitals/centres, it was recognized a few years ago that the affiliation template agreement itself needed to be updated to better reflect new policies at the University (for example, the *Policy for Clinical Faculty*, effective July 2005) and practices in the University of Toronto's relationship with the community hospitals/centres. With this in mind, an extensive consultation and negotiation process was begun two years ago within the University of Toronto and with both current and upcoming community affiliates. Within the University of Toronto, the consultation process involved discussion with the Deans of the Health Science Faculties, as well as with members of key Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Medicine/hospital committees. Consultation with all community hospitals/centres involved individual and group meetings with key hospital leaders and their legal counsels. This intensive process has resulted in the development of the recommended community affiliation template agreement (Appendix A). This agreement will be customized for each of the community hospitals/centres and, once signed, will replace all of the current community affiliation agreements.

The proposed community affiliation template agreement, although based on the new full affiliation template agreement that recently went through the Governing Council approval, is tailored to the community hospitals/centres in many ways, including:

- Provision of process for harmonization of hospital research policies to those of the University
- Recognition that not all university appointments of hospital medical staff who teach will be full-time
- The degree of involvement and consultation between the University and the hospitals with respect to appointment of leaders and program planning is adjusted according to the extent of teaching in the hospital/centre.
- Details regarding fundraising and research have been included in the community agreement only when relevant.
- The University will assist in setting up new teaching programs and providing access to its library services.
- A new Community Research Coordinating Committee will be established

In comparing the recommended new community affiliation template agreement to the community agreements currently in effect, the most significant changes are that there is a common template instead of a variety of individual agreements, that the template is more comprehensive than the old agreements currently in effect, and that the template explicitly requires all community hospitals to provide professional liability insurance for students. Overall, the changes in the proposed template agreement reflect the evolving relationship and enhanced communication, coordination and cooperation between the UofT and the community hospitals/centres. These changes include:

- clarification of staff appointment processes;
- greater recognition of non-MD faculty;
- clarification of teaching obligations and support;
- clarification of hospital autonomy;
- rationalization of administrative processes;
- addition of new vehicles for communication;
- a streamlined structure for the agreement; and
- clarification of terms used in the agreement through addition of a definitions section.

As with the new full affiliation agreement, a number of specific issues have been dealt with in the proposed template agreement. These changes, most of which were not covered in the current affiliation agreements, make the agreement more relevant and reflective of the policies and practices that are currently in place. The changes include the addition of language relating to:

- our joint mission and mutual acknowledgements;
- the Policy for Clinical Faculty, approved by Governing Council, July 2005;
- academic freedom and dispute resolution;
- process and commitment for student teaching placements;
- application of UofT policies to hospital sites;
- use of each others' names;
- non-discrimination and human rights;
- hospital research ethics boards;
- insurance and WSIB coverage;
- inventions notification between the UofT and hospitals/centres;
- agreement renewal via a systematic review after 5 years, with a default survival provision; and
- force majeure (i.e. disaster contingency).

In the last year, new community affiliation agreements with an additional 4 community teaching hospitals/centres has been in the process of being negotiated for Bridgepoint Health, Credit Valley Hospital, Rouge Valley Hospital and the Trillium Health Centre. Once the recommended community affiliation template agreement is approved, it will be customized for each existing and proposed institution to reflect details relevant to each hospital/centre.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no resource implications for the University's operating budget as a result of entering into a new community affiliation agreement with each of the community hospitals/centres.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Be It Recommended to Academic Board

- (a) THAT the template for community affiliation agreements between the University of Toronto and the current community hospitals/centres be approved, effective immediately;
- (b) THAT the President, or designate, be authorized to sign such agreements on behalf of the Governing Council, provided that the agreements conform to the approved template; and
- (c) THAT the agreements signed under the provisions of this resolution be filed with the Secretary of Governing Council.