



**FOR INFORMATION**

**PUBLIC**

**OPEN SESSION**

**TO:** UTM Academic Affairs Committee

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**PRESENTER:** See above  
**CONTACT INFO:**

**DATE:** September 7, 2021 for September 14, 2021

**AGENDA ITEM:** 6

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

Divisional Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Terms of Reference, UTM

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

5.7 Matters for Information

The Committee receives, annually from its assessors, reports on matters within its areas of responsibility, including statements of current issues, opportunities and problems, and recommendations for changes in policies, plans or priorities that would address such issues

**GOVERNANCE PATH:**

- UTM Academic Affairs Committee [for information] (September 14, 2021)

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

None.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

Divisional Undergraduate Curriculum Committees in the Humanities, Sciences, and Social Sciences are advisory committees of the Vice-Principal Academic and Dean. The function of each committee is to receive and review proposals for minor modifications to existing undergraduate programs; to advise the Curriculum Committee Chair and Vice-Principal Academic & Dean on the content, quality, and feasibility of proposed curricular changes; and to recommend proposed changes move forward for approval by the UTM Academic Affairs Committee. The scope of these Committees is outlined in the Divisional Undergraduate

Curriculum Committee Terms of Reference, detailing purpose, membership, and roles, as well as responsibilities and process, originally adopted September 1, 2019. The enclosed Terms of Reference (adopted September 1, 2021) reflects updates that bring the document in line with changes to the organizational structure and staff of the UTM Office of the Vice-Principal, Academic & Dean.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

For Information

**DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:**

- Divisional Undergraduate Curriculum Committee Terms of Reference



## Divisional Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

Humanities, Sciences, Social Sciences

### Terms of Reference

ADOPTED: September 1, ~~2020~~2021

#### PURPOSE

Divisional Undergraduate Curriculum Committees (hereafter “CC”) are advisory committees of the Vice-Principal Academic and Dean. The function of each committee is threefold:

1. To receive and REVIEW proposals for minor modifications to existing undergraduate academic programs and courses under UTM authority;
2. To ADVISE the CC Chair and Vice-Principal Academic & Dean on the content, quality, and feasibility of proposed curricular changes, ensuring consistency with UTM’s mission, policies, and educational goals; and
3. To RECOMMEND proposed changes move forward for approval by the UTM Academic Affairs Committee (AAC), as appropriate.

#### MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Humanities, Sciences, and Social Sciences CCs include:

- ~~Divisional Undergraduate CC Chair (a representative of the Office of the Dean)~~ Vice-Dean, Teaching & Learning);
- Divisional Undergraduate CC Vice-Chair (Manager, Academic Programs, Reviews & Quality Assurance)
- The Chairs and Directors (or their designates) of the Departments/Institutes at UTM;
- Chief Librarian, or designate;
- Registrar, or designate; and
- ~~Program & Curriculum Officer (from the Office of the Dean); and~~
- Program & Curriculum Assistant (recording secretary; from the Office of the Dean).

#### RESPONSIBILITIES

- To provide recommendations on proposed minor undergraduate curricular changes to the CC Chair and Vice-Principal Academic & Dean that ensure:
  - Logical sequencing and integration of content;

- Coherence across curricular paths;
  - Currency and relevance of content;
  - Appropriate pedagogy;
  - Consistent, valid, and reliable student assessment;
  - Reasonable expectations of student workload;
  - Feasibility of proposed changes within existing technological systems (e.g., ROSI, ACORN, Degree Explorer) and available resources;
  - Appropriate reflection of current transcript notations and procedures; and
  - Adherence to established UTM practice and policy.
- To provide consultative feedback on standalone proposals of major (i.e. new programs) and minor (i.e. program changes that alter learning outcomes) modifications at the undergraduate level.

## PROCEDURE & PROCESS

### I. MEETINGS

- The CC Chair will call and conduct the meetings.
- The CC will meet a minimum of three times over the academic year (~~once per term in,~~ approximately, October, February, and April).
- Additional meetings may be called throughout the year at the discretion of the CC Chair.
- Electronic notice of each meeting will be sent out a minimum of three weeks prior to the meeting date. Notice will also be posted on the [Office of the Vice Principal & Dean Program & Curriculum](#) website.
- Members may request to present for information items related to undergraduate programs and curriculum at the meeting. This request must be made in writing to the CC Chair a minimum of 48 hours in advance of the meeting date. Upon approval of the request by the CC Chair, the item will be added to the meeting agenda.
- A meeting agenda and CC Proposal Report will be prepared by the Program & Curriculum Assistant (recording secretary) in collaboration with the CC Chair and ~~Program & Curriculum Officer~~Vice-Chair. The agenda and CC Proposal Report will be posted online with notice circulated electronically to all committee members a minimum of 2 days prior to the meeting date.
- Members are expected to attend all meetings within their sub-division (Humanities, Sciences, Social Sciences) to present proposals for curriculum changes, and offer feedback relevant to their area of expertise. A faculty representative from each academic unit must be present at each sub-division curriculum committee meeting for which they offer program(s) and/ or a significant number of courses.
- Curriculum changes are to be entered into the Curriculum Management system approximately 1-2 weeks in advance of CC meetings.
- Curriculum changes are to be presented by a member, in writing, to the CC via the CC Proposal Report (as generated by the Curriculum Management system).
- It is expected that wide consultation be sought by the proposing department/unit prior to presenting curriculum changes to the CC.

- Proposals for major modifications that affect undergraduate programs must be brought forward for feedback to the appropriate CC as part of the consultation process.
- Curriculum changes with financial and resource implications will be reviewed by the Resource Implications Committee.
- Recommendations will proceed to the Vice-Principal Academic & Dean on the basis of a consensus of members present at the scheduled meeting.

## II. ROLES

### i. Chair

The Chair is appointed by the Vice-Principal Academic and Dean and represents the Office of the Dean. The Chair ensures the management and effectiveness of the CC. The Chair reviews all curriculum change proposals and is responsible for ensuring that curriculum changes recommended for approval by the UTM AAC are satisfactory to the committee and consistent with UTM's mission, policies, and educational goals.

### ii. Vice-Chair

The Manager, Academic Programs, Reviews & Quality Assurance from the Office of the Dean will serve as Vice-Chair of the CC. In the event that the Chair is unable to attend a scheduled CC meeting, the Vice-Chair will serve as Chair. Additionally, the Vice-Chair serves as the Chair of the Undergraduate Curriculum Resource Implications Committee.

### iii. Members

Department Chairs and Institute Directors are appointed to the CC within their sub-division(s) to represent their department/unit and present proposals for minor curriculum changes. Chairs/ Directors can appoint a faculty member within their department/ unit, normally an Associate Chair/ Director, to the CC in their place. An administrative staff member may accompany the Chair or delegate to the CC meetings to provide support and assist with ensuring consistency with UTM policies and procedures. Members can request to present items for information at the CC meeting. Such requests must be made in writing to the CC Chair a minimum of 48 hours before the meeting date. All CC members will offer feedback on proposals relevant to their area of expertise and recommend curriculum changes to move forward for approval by the AAC.

### iii-iv. Invited Guests

The CC Chair may invite additional faculty or staff to participate in CC meetings as guests. Guests may be invited to offer feedback in a specific area or present curriculum change proposals that lie outside the scope of the units within that sub-division. Some guests may have a standing invitation to attend all CC meetings.

## III. MINUTES & REPORTS

- The CC Chair will review CC Proposal Report submissions to ensure they are consistent with the recommendations of the CC.
- Minutes will be recorded by the Program & Curriculum Assistant at each meeting.

- The CC Proposal Reports (as generated by the Curriculum Management system) form the official governance document to be submitted to the AAC.

#### **IV. GOVERNANCE & APPROVAL**

- Where proposed changes are satisfactory to the CC, the Vice-Principal Academic & Dean will submit, to a future meeting of the AAC, a summary of the Divisional Reports and enter a motion to approve these.
- Proposed changes with unresolved issues (financial, resource or otherwise) will be held for further consultation and will not advance to AAC.