

FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: UTM Academic Affairs Committee

SPONSOR: Professor Amrita Daniere, Interim Vice-Principal Academic & Dean
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PRESENTER: Professor Tracey Bowen, Vice-Dean, Teaching & Learning
CONTACT INFO:

DATE: May 3, 2023 for May 10, 2023

AGENDA ITEM: 3

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Reviews of Academic Programs and Units

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Section 5.7 of our Terms of Reference states that the Academic Affairs Committee shall receive for information and discussion reviews of academic programs and/or units, consistent with the protocol outlined in the University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process. The reviews are forwarded to the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs for consideration..

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. **UTM Academic Affairs Committee [For Information] (May 10, 2023)**
2. Committee on Academic Policy & Programs [For Information] (February 16, 2023)
3. Agenda Committee of the Academic Board [For Information] (April 18, 2023)
4. Academic Board [For Information] (April 27, 2023)
5. Executive Committee of the Governing Council [For Information] (May 9, 2023)
6. Governing Council [For Information] (May 18, 2023)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

No previous action was taken on this proposal.

HIGHLIGHTS:

This report will address the external reviews of academic programs offered in the Department of Economics and the Master of Management & Professional Accounting (MMPA) Program. These reviews were hosted virtually in October and December 2021. External reviews of academic

programs are an important part of the academic planning process as it ensures the quality of our programs through rigorous and consistent assessment by peers.

For both external reviews, the review teams were provided with the Terms of Reference; previous External Reviewer Reports and Administrative Responses; a Departmental/ Program Self-Study; Faculty CVs; UTM Degree Level Expectations; UofT Facts & Figures; UTM Divisional Academic Plan 2017; UTM Vision Statement 2017; UTM Academic Calendar or the SGS Calendar; UTM Viewbook; UofT Domestic Viewbook or the SGS Admissions Guide; and the Tri-Campus Framework document.

During the site visit, the Economics reviewers met with the Vice-Principal Academic & Dean; Associate Dean, Teaching & Learning; Chair and Associate Chair of the Department; Chair of the Department of Economics at St. George; Chair of the Department of Management (UTM); Chair of the Department of Political Science (UTM); research-stream faculty; teaching-stream faculty; current undergraduate students; graduate students; and departmental administrative staff. For the MMPA Program, the site visit included meetings with the Vice-Principal Academic & Dean; Vice-Dean Teaching & Learning; Vice-Dean Graduate Studies & Postdoctoral Affairs; Director of the Institute for Management & Innovation (IMI); Director of the MMPA Program; Associate Director of the MMPA Program; research-stream faculty; teaching-stream faculty; sessional lecturers; academic librarian; current students; program alumni; and program administrative staff.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is presented for information.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

Presentation on External Reviews



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO
MISSISSAUGA

Annual Report: Cyclical Programs Reviews

Dept. of Economics

Master of Management and Professional Accounting (MMPA)

Tracey Bowen, Vice-Dean, Teaching & Learning
Academic Affairs Committee

May 10, 2023

External Review Process

- **Internal self-study**, using a template, is prepared by the Department Chair/ Program Director after widespread consultation.
 - Focus: the academic programs and curricular alignment with DLEs and PLOS
 - Also included: faculty research, teaching, administrative/ organizational structure, and internal/ external relationships.

- **Two-day site visit with an External Review Team**
 - External reviewers prepare a report for the Dean.
 - Report provides a detailed evaluation of programs and curriculum.
 - Due to COVID, both reviews were held virtually

External Reviewers

- Reviewers will have subject expertise and administrative experience
 - represent Canadian *and* American or International universities
- Reviewers will evaluate the quality of the academic programs, raise any significant concerns, and make recommendations for improvement

Response to External Reviewer Report

- External Reviewer Report is reviewed to ensure no factual errors.
- Final External Reviewer Report is submitted to the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs (VPAP). The VPAP Office provides a summary and formally requests an administrative response from the Chair/ Program Director and Dean.
- The review summary and decanal response shared with:
 - Academic Affairs
 - Committee on Academic Policy & Programs (AP&P)
 - Academic Board

Department of Economics

October 25, 28 & 29, 2021

Chair: Margarida Duarte

Review Team: University of British Columbia &
Boston University

ECO – Major Findings – Positive Elements

Programs & Curriculum

- **High-quality programs** that develop analytical and critical thinking, and foster an understanding of how humans interact
- **Writing skills** - Programs notably successful at ensuring students develop writing skills; smaller upper-level classes help students develop writing, presentation, and research skills
- **Certificate in Advanced Economics program** praised for clarifying the courses necessary for pursuing graduate studies with no significant resource cost

ECO – Major Findings – Positive Elements

Faculty/Research

- Faculty research activities' scope, quality, and relevance are all extremely high
- Active teaching and learning group at UTM
- Teaching Stream faculty interact with teaching faculty in other units

Administration

- Level of cooperation between the Economics faculty at UTSG and UTM is “genuinely remarkable”

ECO – Recommendations

Programs & Curriculum

- An empirical data-oriented track for students in response to high demand for workers trained in data analysis and economics
- Increased offerings in environmental economics and international trade

Faculty

- Strongly recommend that the administration consider allowing some senior offers to offset the loss of tenured faculty
- Junior faculty would benefit from a more formalized mentorship program

ECO – Response to Review

Programs & Curriculum

- A ‘data analytics’ track within Economics programming was already being considered by the Department pre-review and delayed due to the pandemic; Department to re-focus on this initiative as a short- to medium-term goal
- Department’s coverage of environmental economics and international has steadily increased over the years; will continue to leverage existing faculty expertise and interest to develop these areas more

ECO – Response to Review

Faculty

- Economics has noted the competitive market for recruiting qualified faculty; will continue to develop strong recruitment and retention strategies as well as mentoring supports
- Department to strike a committee, with representation from all ranks and streams, to improve mentoring program

Master of Management & Professional Accounting (MMPA)

December 8, 9 & 13, 2021

Program Director: Irene Wiecek

Review Team: University of Waterloo, University of
Cambridge & University of Michigan

MMPA – Major Findings – Positive Elements

Program & Curriculum

- **Preparation for career launch-** MMPA does excellent job of preparing students for professional exams and launch to traditional accounting career paths
- **Unique 2-year program** - Program is unique in Canadian market as students can take an accounting master's degree without prior accounting degree experience
- **Strong placement rates** – evidence of consistently strong employment placement rates

MMPA – Major Findings – Positive Elements

Faculty

- Excellent Accounting faculty at UTM and Rotman: “there is no question that there is access to superior intellectual quality in accounting”

Administration

- Program administrators and instructors passionately committed to student mentoring and support; students and alumni are very appreciative
- Program team is highly competent and motivated, and well-involved in the profession
- Program appears to enjoy very close relationships with accounting professional organizations

MMPA – Recommendations

Programs & Curriculum

- Provide broader range of courses outside of the traditional accounting path
- Carefully examine the curriculum to identify and eliminate unnecessary redundancies

Administration

- Decouple program from its current primary focus on professional accounting-based exam completion and reorient to professional impact-based learning
- Opportunities for synergies with other degree programs at IMI

MMPA – Response to Review

Program & Curriculum

- Program's strategic and purposeful recruitment shift to target students with a science background will help to expand and broaden the curriculum into areas of sustainability, big data, and emerging technologies.
- Program to review current curriculum to eliminate redundancies and make room for elective course options; updates to the CPA Competencies Map 2.0 will help with this

MMPA – Response to Review

Administration

- Program is working to expand co-op partners to develop work term opportunities beyond the ‘big four accounting firms’ and expose students to career options other than the ‘traditional’ professional accounting pathway.
- Program has also started discussions with the MScSM Program to explore opportunities for collaboration.