



**FOR
INFORMATION**

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: Governing Council

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PRESENTER: See above
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DATE: December 11, 2023 for December 18, 2023

AGENDA ITEM: 7a

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Semi-Annual Report on the Reviews of Academic Units and Programs

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. Within the Accountability Framework for Cyclical Review of Academic Programs and Units, 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. AP&P “receive[s] semi-annual program review reports including summaries of all reviews, identifying key issues and administrative responses,” which are discussed at a “dedicated program review meeting with relevant academic leadership.” (*Policy for Approval and Review of Academic Programs and Units*).

The compendium of review summaries (“the Semi-Annual Report on the Reviews of Academic Units and Programs”) 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. “The Office of the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs submits the summary and the Dean’s Administrative Response to the Report (including the implementation plan and excluding all confidential information) to University governance through the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) of the Academic Board on a biannual basis in the form of a compendium of draft Final Assessment Reports and Implementation Plans” (*UTQAP*, 6.9.2.1).

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. Committee on Academic Policy and Programs [for information] (October 24, 2023)
2. Agenda Committee of the Academic Board [for information] (October 31, 2023)
3. Academic Board [for information] (November 16, 2023)
4. Executive Committee of the Governing Council [for information] (December 5, 2023)
5. **Governing Council [for information] (December 18, 2023)**

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

Governing Council approved the *Policy for Approval and Review of Academic Programs and Units* in 2010. The *Policy* outlines University-wide principles for the approval of proposed new academic programs and review of existing programs and units. Its purpose is to align the University's quality assurance processes with the Province's Quality Assurance Framework through establishing the authority of the *University of Toronto's Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP)*.

The Semi-Annual Report on the Reviews of Academic Units and Programs was previously submitted to the Agenda Committee on April 18, 2023.

HIGHLIGHTS:

External reviews of academic programs and units are important mechanisms of accountability for the University and a vital part of the academic planning process. Academic reviews are critical to ensuring the quality of our programs through vigorous and consistent processes that assess the quality of new and existing programs and units against our international peers.

Materials for the external review reports and the complete decanal responses for eleven external reviews of units and/or academic programs are being submitted to AP&P for information and discussion; all of these were commissioned by Deans. The signed administrative responses from each Dean highlight action plans in response to reviewer recommendations.

Overall, the themes raised in these reviews echoed those in previous compendia: the excellent quality of our programs, the talent and high calibre of our students, and the impressive body of scholarship produced by our faculty. In addition, this set of reviews highlighted academic units' strong and productive connections with surrounding communities, and many initiatives undertaken to enhance equity, diversity, and inclusion.

As always, the reviews noted areas for development. The reviews identified opportunities for units to strengthen coordination and leverage interdisciplinary strengths, and suggested ways to augment supports and mentorship for both students and faculty. The reviews also highlighted the ongoing need to ensure that diversity is reflected in faculty complement and curriculum.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is for information and feedback.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

Compendium of Reviews of Academic Programs and Units (“Semi-Annual Report on the Reviews of Academic Units and Programs”)