

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

REPORT NUMBER 128 OF THE UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS BOARD

April 26, 2005

To the Governing Council,
University of Toronto.

Your Board reports that it met on Tuesday, April 26, 2005 at 4:30 p.m. in the Debates Room, Hart House, with the following members present:

Dr. Robert M. Bennett, In the Chair
Mr. Ari D. Kopolovic, Vice-Chair
Professor David Farrar, Deputy Provost
and Vice-Provost, Students
Ms Anne E. MacDonald,
Director, Ancillary Services
Ms Mubarka Alam
Ms Katherine Anne Boyd
Mr. Christopher M. Collins
Dr. Claude S. Davis
Ms Margaret Hancock
Ms Shaila R. Kibria
Professor Bruce Kidd
Ms Françoise Ko
Mr. Chris McGrath
Dr. Joel A. Kirsh
Dr. John P. Nestor

Miss Maureen Somerville
Ms Rebecca Spagnolo
Ms Preet Virdi
Dr. John Wedge

Non-Voting Assessors:

Ms Susan Addario, Director, Student Affairs
Ms Marilyn Van Norman, Director,
Student Services

Secretariat:

Mr. Neil Dobbs
Mr. Andrew Drummond

Regrets:

Mr. Shaun Chen
Mr. Tarek Saghir

Ms Teresa Pun
Ms Maggy Stepanian

In Attendance:

Mr. Darcy Griffith, Manager, Police Services, University of Toronto at Scarborough
Mr. Dan Hutt, Manager, Police Services, St. George Campus
Mr. Len Paris, Manager, Police Services, University of Toronto at Mississauga
Ms. Helen Slade, Co-ordinator, Student Crisis Response Program

ALL ITEMS ARE REPORTED FOR INFORMATION

Chair's Remarks

The Chair congratulated Mr. Christopher Collins, who had been awarded a prestigious University of Toronto Alumni Association Graduate Scholarship.

Re-Order the Agenda

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The Chair informed the Board that Professor David Naylor had been named President-designate of the University of Toronto at the Governing Council meeting of April 26, 2005. The President-designate had been meeting University of Toronto stakeholders throughout the day, and was currently meeting several student leaders, who anticipated being late to the Board meeting as a result. The Chair therefore asked the Board, and received its assent, to re-order the agenda so that discussion of Student Society Fee Increases could be considered following discussion of the Provost's Annual Report on Decisions by Hearing Officers for the Code of Student Conduct.

1. Report of the Previous Meeting

Report Number 127 (March 29, 2005) was approved.

2. Business Arising from the Report

There was no business arising from the Report of the previous meeting.

3. Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees: Student Society Fees

(a) Report on Financial Statements and Internal Auditor's Opinion

Professor Farrar informed the Board that the Report on Financial Statements was an annual accountability report to the Board, and three societies were listed as having failed to submit their statements. There was no discussion.

(b) Student Society Proposals for Fee Increases

Professor Farrar informed the Board that student societies presented annually requests for increases to fees, and were required to comply with all University policies, including those for referenda. He flagged for the Board that both the Students' Administrative Council (SAC) and the Association of Part-Time Undergraduate Students (APUS) had asked for greater increases than the administration was recommending. The requests were for 'catch-up' to allow them to pay the full fees assessment to the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

A member asked about the consequences to the Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students and the Students' Administrative Council of their being permitted to increase their fees by less than the amount of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) fee increase. Would that require that the organizations either reduce spending on other aspects of their operations or incur a deficit? Professor Farrar replied that the two organizations had requested cost-of-living catch up for two and three years, but the Policy on Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees permitted cost-of-living increases for only one year. Invited to respond to further questions, Mr. Delaney noted that the permissible 1.9% increase for the coming year was apparently slightly greater than the 1.7% increase for the single year assessed by the CFS. That would provide some element of catch-up. For any further catch-up, however, the Policy required that the organizations request the permission of their members through a referendum.

3. Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees: Student Society Fees (cont'd)

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(b) Student Society Proposals for Fee Increases (cont'd)

On the recommendation of the Deputy Provost and Vice-Provost, Students,

YOUR BOARD APPROVED

THAT beginning in the fall 2005 session, a new fee of \$10.00 per session be established for the Woodsworth College Residence Council charged to all residents of the Woodsworth College Residence.

THAT beginning in the fall 2005 session, the 89 Chestnut Residence Council fee be increased by \$0.17 per session, from \$9.00 to \$9.17, charged to all residents of the 89 Chestnut Residence.

THAT beginning in the fall 2005 session, the Association of Part-time Undergraduate Students fee be increased by \$29.89 per session, from \$37.44 to \$67.33, charged to all part-time undergraduate students.

THAT beginning in the fall 2005 session, the Engineering Society fee be increased by \$15.88 per session, from \$88.34 to \$104.22, charged to all full-time Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering students.

THAT beginning in the fall 2005 session, the Erindale College Student Union fee be increased by \$0.20 per session, from \$43.13 to \$43.33, charged to all full-time undergraduate University of Toronto at Mississauga students.

THAT beginning in the fall 2005 session, the Graduate Students' Union fee be increased by \$12.14 per session, from \$106.89 to \$119.03, charged to all full-time School of Graduate Studies students and by \$0.37 per session, from \$21.96 to \$22.33, charged to all part-time School of Graduate Studies students.

THAT beginning in the fall 2005 session, the Undergraduate Pharmacy Society fee be increased by \$1.63 per session, from \$28.75 to \$30.38, charged to all full-time Pharmacy students.

THAT beginning in the fall 2005 session, the Scarborough Campus Students' Union fee be increased by \$8.19 per session, from \$159.92 to \$168.11,¹ charged to all full-time undergraduate University of Toronto at Scarborough students and by \$0.20 per session, from \$10.92 to \$11.12, charged to all part-time undergraduate University of Toronto at Scarborough students.

THAT beginning in the fall 2005 session, the Scarborough College Students' Press fee be increased by \$1.00 per session, from \$2.50 to \$3.50, charged to all full-time undergraduate University of Toronto at Scarborough students.

3. Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees: Student Society Fees (cont'd)

(b) Student Society Proposals for Fee Increases (cont'd)

¹ While SCSU is authorized by the University Affairs Board to charge \$59.28 per session (including the administration fee and PST) for the Dental Plan, SCSU has elected to charge only \$38.86 (including the administration fee and PST) per session in 2005-06. Therefore, the actual fee that will be charged to full-time undergraduate UTSC students is \$147.69.

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THAT beginning in the fall 2005 session, the Students' Administrative Council (St. George Campus) fee be increased by \$0.48 per session, from \$126.61 to \$127.09,¹ charged to all full-time undergraduate students on the St. George Campus.

THAT beginning in the fall 2005 session, the Students' Administrative Council (University of Toronto at Mississauga) fee be increased by \$0.48 per session, from \$124.36 to \$124.84,² charged to all full-time undergraduate University of Toronto at Mississauga students.

THAT beginning in the fall 2005 session, the Students' Law Society fee be increased by \$25.00 per session, from \$35.00 to \$60.00, charged to all full-time first year Law (J.D.) students.

4. Police Services: Annual Reports, 2004

Ms. MacDonald informed the Board that it received reports from the three campus Police Services on an annual basis for information. She noted that Police Services, during the reporting period, celebrated 100 years of service at the University of Toronto.

(a) University of Toronto at Scarborough

The Chair invited Mr. Darcy Griffith, Manager of Police Services at UTSC, to address the Board. Mr. Griffith informed the Board that 2004 had been a year of growth and success at UTSC Police Service, with continued programs as well as innovative new initiatives to increase awareness of security issues. In particular, Mr. Griffith cited a radio show, hosted by a newly hired constable, that had increased awareness of safety issues, crime prevention, and CrimeStoppers, as well as serving a useful element of community outreach.

(b) University of Toronto, St. George Campus

The Chair invited Mr. Dan Hutt, Manager, Police Services, St. George Campus, to address the Board. Mr. Hutt reported that initiatives to renew security on the St. George Campus continued throughout the reporting period, and focused on goals such as ensuring security of facilities at night, ensuring adequate alarm systems and performing security audits in facilities. Another key priority was to work on the Service's involvement in student relationships involving harassment, which would be a major initiative for 2005. He noted for the record the pride he took in his staff on a daily basis.

(c) University of Toronto at Mississauga

The Chair invited Mr. Len Paris, Manager, Police Services, UTM, to address the Board. Mr. Paris expressed pride in the work performed by the Police Service at UTM. He stressed that a key element of the Police Services contribution consisted of voluntary community service. He noted several examples of community involvement, namely, a bicycle ride to Niagara Falls, Cops for Cancer, a Bowlathon, and participation at other local safety events.

² While SAC is authorized by the University Affairs Board to charge \$59.28 per session (including the administration fee and PST) for the Dental Plan, SAC has elected to charge only \$38.13 (including the administration fee and PST) per session in 2005-06. Therefore, the actual SAC (St. George Campus) fee charged is \$105.94 and the actual SAC (UTM) fee charged is \$103.69.

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The guests responded to a number of detailed questions. In the course of discussion, a member noted that the police services on all three campuses appeared to share a common, service-oriented approach to their work, for which she commended them. In carrying out her duties, she had occasion to call on the support of the police services for a variety of events, often involving large numbers of people. She found that the police services had invariably responded well and that they had worked very hard to assist in the successful conclusion of the events they supported. She, and members of the Board, thanked the police services for their excellent work.

5. Student Crisis Response Programs: Annual Report, 2004-05

Professor Farrar informed the Board that the Student Crisis Response Program was five years old and was funded by the Office of the Provost with a mandate (a) to help staff and faculty in dealing with student crises and (b) to ensure that proper referrals were made in a timely way. Ms. Helen Slade had assumed the position of Interim Co-ordinator of the Office while the Co-ordinator was on leave, and she had maintained the profile of the Office and responded to an even greater number of cases than in previous years. The Chair then invited Ms. Slade to present her Office's annual report.

Ms. Slade noted that there were several emerging trends in dealing with student crises. First, there was a dramatic increase in mental health problems that required crisis intervention. Some of these were minor, with issues of depression and/or anxiety; some, however, displayed the advent of more severe problems such as psychosis, many of which were a first episode. Many mental illnesses had their onset at university age, and although any young person might face those illnesses, their manifestations in the university context required additional attention. Some of these students attempted elements of self-medication to address their illnesses, and some were too ill to do academic work. Many, however, after intervention from the Office, were able to modify their goals and continue with success at the University. Ms. Slade informed the Board that, in her opinion, the University required better systems to allow for time away from academic work with dignity and without an academic penalty applied.

Of particular concern was the use of alcohol and street drugs by students requiring intervention. Although, in some cases, these drugs were used as self-medication to help students repress feelings associated with mental illness, the effects of these drugs were usually detrimental.

Lastly, Ms. Slade noted an increase in the number of international students requiring aid. Additional recruitment would mean additional requirements for support. International students required assistance not only to handle the shock of arrival in a new environment, but also with longer-term issues.

The Student Crisis Response Program was one node of a network consisting of University officials who handled student services, security, safety and equity issues, and its success was driven by mutual cooperation and with the best interests of the students in mind.

During discussion, a member asked if risk assessment was used as an element in severe cases. Ms. Slade answered in the affirmative. Another member asked if there were campus programs to deal with eating disorders. Ms. Slade noted that there were some such programs on campus, but that they tended to deal with the issues on a weekly or ongoing basis; off-campus in-patient facilities would handle crisis issues better. Another member, who was also a member of the Academic Appeals Committee, noted that she had handled cases where mental illness played a part. She asked if there were discussions underway to examine cultural sensitivity in handling crisis cases, especially those involving mental illness. Ms. Slade responded that cultural sensitivity was one component of handling cases.

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Professor Farrar presented the Annual Report on Decisions by Hearing Officers, noting that there had been only five cases referred to Hearing Officers during the reporting period. In Chemistry terms, the total number of cases approximated only 70 parts per million. A member questioned why there were no formal hearings in the reporting year, and whether closure had been reached in the cases noted. Ms. Addario responded that a complete answer to that question should be referred to the Judicial Affairs Officer in the Office of the Governing Council, but that cases were often resolved informally. Another member questioned why the 1999-2000 reporting year had so many more cases than other years. Ms. Addario responded that that year, one campus had dealt rigorously with a rash of illegal copies of parking passes.

7. Report of the Senior Assessor

Professor Farrar referred members to his written report. He noted that discussions on the student portal project were well underway, that a student survey on requirements was complete, and that the first phase of the project was targeted to be in place for September, 2005. The portal would require only a single sign-on and would allow students to access information in a better format targeted to their preferences and needs.

A member asked if *Getting There* would no longer be printed as the portal project was rolled out. Professor Farrar responded that changes in the presentation of *Getting There* were unconnected to the portal project, but were part of an overall redesign of campus communications. The administration was examining the possibility of electronic publication of *Getting There* for 2006. Another member asked about the effort to standardize web presentation of departments across the campus for better consistency, better accessibility and higher quality. Professor Farrar noted in response that the utoronto.ca domain had over 500,000 individual pages, and that efforts for consistency concentrated on 'top-level' pages to allow for a more standard look and feel, some content management, and, as a first step, easier navigation. A member asked what forms of communication would be used to advertise the roll-out of the portal initiative. Ms. Addario informed the Board that, by 2007, the way to communicate on campus would be very different, and the portal would enhance the University's ability to communicate internally. She noted that there was a need for systems redundancy, and that some elements of communication needed to remain print-oriented. Working groups were continuing to examine all the issues, including whether the University would meet its legal requirements to set out conditions of being a student, as the portal rolled out. The Council on Student Services (COSS) had passed a motion to examine how to provide needed information in a clear format.

8. Dates of the Next Meeting

The Chair informed members that the next meeting was scheduled for May 31, 2005 at 4:30 p.m.

9. Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

 Secretary

 Chair

May 4, 2005
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