



FOR INFORMATION

PUBLIC

OPEN SESSION

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

SPONSOR: Professor Susan McCahan, Vice-Provost, Academic Programs

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PRESENTER: See above.

CONTACT INFO:

DATE: April 30, 2024 for May 8, 2024

AGENDA ITEM: 14

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Report on the Review of Clinical Departments 2023-24

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

“The Committee...has general responsibility...for monitoring the quality of education and the research activities of the University.... The Committee receives annual reports or such more frequent regular reports as it may determine, on matters within its purview, including reports on the ...[r]eviews of academic units and programs.”

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. Committee on Academic Policy and Programs [For Information] (May 8, 2024)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The 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 goal is to align the University’s quality assurance processes with the Province’s Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) through establishing the authority of the *University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP)*, which outlines the process for reviewing academic programs and the units that offer them.

The Dean of the Temerty Faculty of Medicine commissions reviews of the Faculty’s clinical departments, modeled on but outside of the scope of the UTQAP review process, and prepares an annual report on their outcomes and implementation plans. Because of the unique contribution clinical departments make to the Faculty’s education programs, this report is brought forward for information to the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P). These reviews are intended to help assess and improve quality. The *Policy for Approval and Review of Academic Programs and Units* states that “...the quality of the

scholarship of the faculty, and the degree to which that scholarship is brought to bear in teaching are the foundations of academic excellence. More generally, all of the factors that contribute to collegial and scholarly life —academic and administrative complement, research and scholarly activity, infrastructure, governance, etc.—bear on the quality of academic programs and the broad educational experience of students.”

The annual Report on the Review of Clinical Departments was previously submitted to the AP&P on May 4, 2023.

HIGHLIGHTS:

In 2023-24: one external review of clinical departments was completed:

The Department of Medicine

A table that summarizes the review outcomes and decanal response/implementation plan is provided.

The overall assessment of the quality of the Department of Medicine was very high. Reviewers commented on the high quality of teaching and the remarkable scope, quality and relevance of the clinical department’s research activities. The decanal administrative response/implementation plan addressed the reviewers’ recommendations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications.

RECOMMENDATION:

For Information.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

- Summary Table of 2023-24 Clinical Department Reviews

Systematic reviews of academic units are a critical process of quality assurance accountability at the Temerty Faculty of Medicine. Academic reviews of Clinical Departments are commissioned by the Dean to coincide, normally, with the end of the term of the Chair; as such, they can inform both strategic priority-setting and Chair (re)appointments. These reviews are distinct from professional accreditation and are not governed by the University of Toronto's "University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process" (UTQAP). Like UTQAP reviews, the protocols for Clinical Department reviews include (i) terms of reference, (ii) self-study report, (iii) visit by external reviewers, (iv) reviewers' report of findings, and (v) Chair's and (vi) Dean's responses. Summarized outcomes of a review are brought forward, for information, to the Committee on Academic Policy & Programs of Academic Board; the full report and responses are submitted to the Executive Committee of the Temerty Faculty Council and circulated broadly in the Clinical Department.

CLINICAL DEPARTMENT	Dept. of Medicine
EXTERNAL REVIEWERS	Dr. Seth Landefeld – Dept. of Medicine, Heersink School of Medicine, University of Alabama at Birmingham Dr. Anita Palepu – Dept. of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia
DATES OF REVIEW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ October 2-4, 2023
STRENGTHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ <i>“Internationally prominent faculty and programs in research, training, and patient care...Further investment would likely have tremendous return in terms of [developing] the next generation of physician-investigators and the expansion of clinical training.”</i> ▫ Learners <i>“endorsed a highly supportive learning environment”</i>; <i>“Students felt teaching at all sites was high quality.”</i> ▫ <i>“DoM attracts and develops incredibly talented and committed trainees and junior faculty, and it supports them as much as possible to develop as leading faculty. (Few departments have this track record.)”</i> ▫ <i>“Incredible thinking, policies and operational changes, and programs...in Culture & Inclusion. Deep passion and commitment to wellness, EDI and mentorship”</i>; <i>“North Star on mutual respect, compassion, integrity, inclusion”</i> ▫ <i>“It is truly remarkable to review the scope, quality, and relevance of research activities of the UofT DoM, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic...DoM produced 32% of all UofT scholarly output in health sciences from 2017-22.”</i>
RECOMMENDATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Continue efforts focusing on the Chair's North Star of mutual respect, compassion, integrity, inclusion, and wellbeing ▫ Increase TFOM transparency regarding how DoM funding is determined, and which DoM investments are considered worthwhile; TFOM and DoM develop a strategy that sustainably increases funding for DoM ▫ Assess resource needs of increasing training sites and programs, and understand potential unintended consequences of disseminating faculty appointments without maintaining current standards and expectations ▫ Harmonize pre-award research procedures, such as IRB and contracting, across TAHSN ▫ Review the role of and resources available to sustain Clinician Teachers' substantial educational and administrative contributions ▫ Increase TFOM/DoM investment to attract and develop the next generation of Clinician Scientists ▫ Identify and eliminate/modify programs of little value with TFOM; e.g., CBD may offer little return on the enormous investment
DECANAL RESPONSE Implementation Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▫ Conduct budget allocation process review with a focus on increased transparency, establishment of criteria and priorities for funding, enhanced accountability, and the standardization of financial processes across departments by TFOM ▫ Review of space allocation and needs assessments for all departments by the Temerty Space Planning Committee ▫ Collaborate with departments and TAHSN partners to ensure robust investment in and support for faculty ▫ Continue decanal work with the University's Vice President, Research & Innovation, our TAHSN colleagues, and the network's research institutes to further develop inter-institutional collaborations ▫ Build educational and mentorship opportunities for trainees with Integrated Physician Scientist Training Program Director ▫ Charge TFOM Task Force with identifying and recommending implementation processes to increase Clinician Teacher supports