UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

FOR INFORMATION   PUBLIC   OPEN SESSION

TO:	UTSC Academic Affairs Committee
SPONSOR: **CONTACT INFO:**	Prof. Karin Ruhlandt, Vice-Principal, Academic & Dean vpdean.utsc@utoronto.ca
PRESENTERS: **CONTACT INFO:**	Kevin Mak, Manager, Academic Program Reviews & Quality Assurance kevin.mak@utoronto.ca Prof. Katherine R. Larson, Vice-Dean, Teaching, Learning & Undergraduate Programs vdundergrad.utsc@utoronto.ca
DATE:	September 4, 2025 for September 11, 2025
AGENDA ITEM:	2

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Presentation: Overview of *University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process* and 2025-26 Strategic Priorities for Curriculum Development at UTSC

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Under section 5.7 of the Terms of Reference of the University of Toronto Scarborough Academic Affairs Committee (UTSC AAC) provides that 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:

1. **UTSC Academic Affairs Committee [For Information] (September 11, 2025)**

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

This strategic presentation was last delivered to members and guests during the first UTSC Academic Affairs Committee meeting of the 2024-25 academic year on September 12, 2024.

HIGHLIGHTS:

This presentation outlines strategic priorities and governance processes for curriculum development in 2025-26.

In Ontario, all universities and colleges are subject to a provincial quality assurance process that ensures accountability and supports continuous improvement in academic programming. At the University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC), this process is governed by the *University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process*, also known as *UTQAP*. This framework outlines protocols for new programs, major modifications, program closures, and cyclical reviews, ensuring institutional alignment with the Province's Quality Assurance Framework (QAF), which is the set of provincial standards.

The UTQAP also reinforces UTSC's commitments to equity, anti-racism, Indigeneity, and accessibility. These values are reflected in self-studies and new program proposals prepared by academic units.

At its core, the UTQAP promotes continuous monitoring and improvement of academic programs to ensure that curricular initiatives benefit students. External reviews and curriculum development are key components of this cycle. A cyclical review begins with a self-study, allowing departments to reflect on strengths, opportunities, and strategic priorities. This is followed by a site visit, during which external reviewers provide recommendations. These often lead to major curricular changes or the development of new programs. Implementation is monitored through mid-cycle updates, and the same principles apply to new program development.

The Terms of Reference for the UTSC Academic Affairs Committee (AAC) identify academic programs and academic regulations as areas of responsibility. As such, committee members play a vital role in supporting the UTQAP.

Curricular proposals, whether for modifications or changes to academic regulations, undergo a development, review, and sign-off process. This ensures that proponents have consulted relevant stakeholders and that divisional offices (e.g., Dean's Office, Registrar's Office) and other institutional units are informed and aligned before proposals reach the AAC. Major modifications and new program proposals are also vetted by the Office of the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs. External review reports are brought to the AAC for information, allowing members to stay informed and engage in discussion.

In 2025-26, curriculum development at UTSC will be guided by the extension of the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, *Inspiring Inclusive Excellence*, and shaped by the campus's culture of care. With the launch of the Scarborough Academy of Medicine and Integrated Health (SAMIH), the expansion of the health sciences, the opening of Indigenous House, and a new Conservation Centre at the Toronto Zoo, curriculum development will require cross-departmental collaboration, accountability, and creativity. Priorities will also continue to reflect the recommendations of the UTSC Campus Curriculum Review Working Circle and institutional commitments to equity, anti-racism, Indigeneity, and accessibility.

In addition to incorporating experiential and land-based learning as part of UTSC's curricular innovations, the Office of the Vice-Principal Academic and Dean is prioritizing process enhancements supporting strategic curricular innovation at UTSC through UTQAP and governance. In addition to launching a new Expression of Interest process for units interested in submitting ideas for future academic programs that

draw on cross-departmental collaborations and growing interest in interdisciplinary and health sciences programming, curricular work at U of T Scarborough will be supported by several interrelated committees: the UTSC Campus Curriculum Committee (CCC), the Health Across Disciplines Working Group (formerly known as HESA), and the UTSC Campus Curriculum Review Working Circle.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no net financial implications to the campus' operating budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

This item is presented for information only.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

1. Presentation: Overview of *University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process* and Strategic Priorities for Curriculum Development in 2025-26

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO QUALITY ASSURANCE PROCESS (UTQAP)
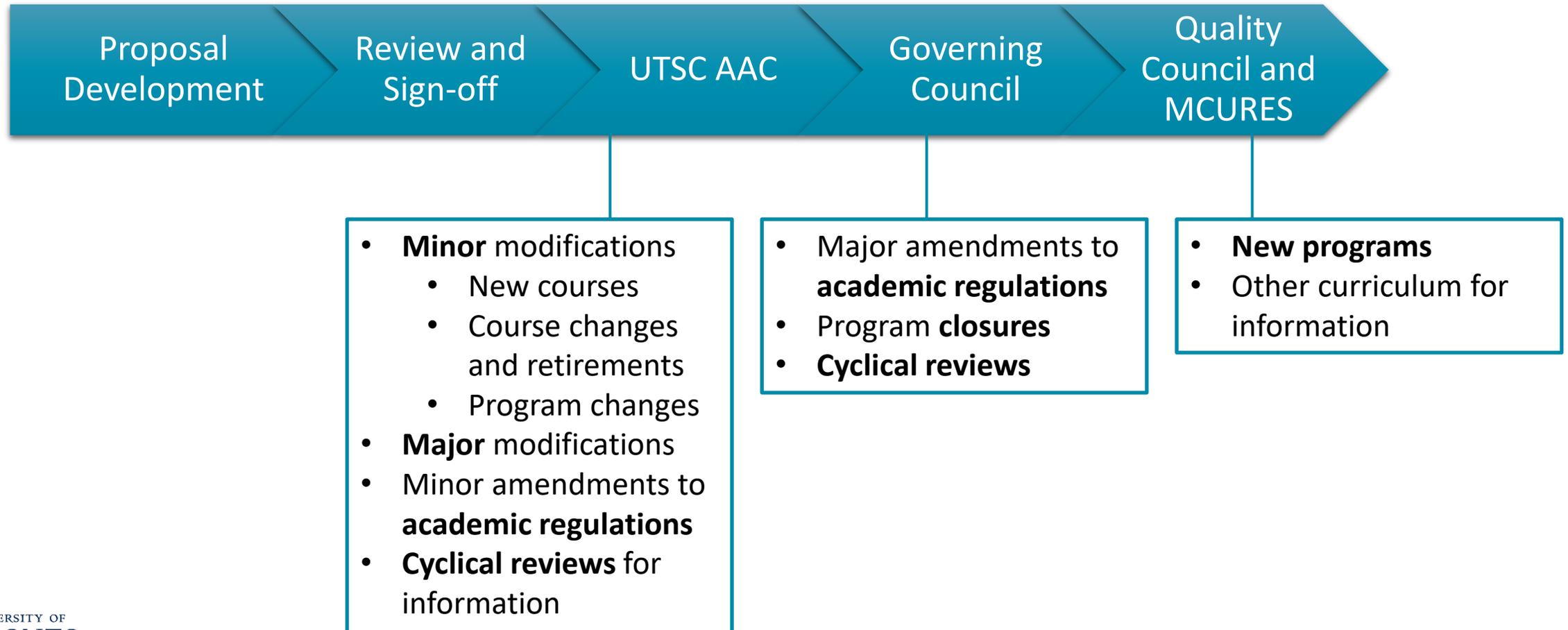
- Specifies protocols for:
  - Developing, appraising and approving new academic programs
  - Significantly modifying existing academic programs
  - Closing existing degrees and programs
  - Conducting cyclical reviews of existing Faculties, units, and the programs they offer.

- UTQAP incorporates institutional commitments to equity, anti-racism, Indigeneity, and accessibility

- Ensures that the University of Toronto operates in conformity with the *Quality Assurance Framework (QAF)* for the Province of Ontario

From the Office of the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs
(https://www.vpacademic.utoronto.ca/quality-assurance/)

GOVERNANCE PATHWAYS

Proposal Development → Review and Sign-off → UTSC AAC → Governing Council → Quality Council and MCURES

UTSC AAC
- **Minor** modifications
  - New courses
  - Course changes and retirements
  - Program changes
- **Major** modifications
- Minor amendments to **academic regulations**
- **Cyclical reviews** for information

Governing Council
- Major amendments to **academic regulations**
- Program **closures**
- **Cyclical reviews**

Quality Council and MCURES
- **New programs**
- Other curriculum for information
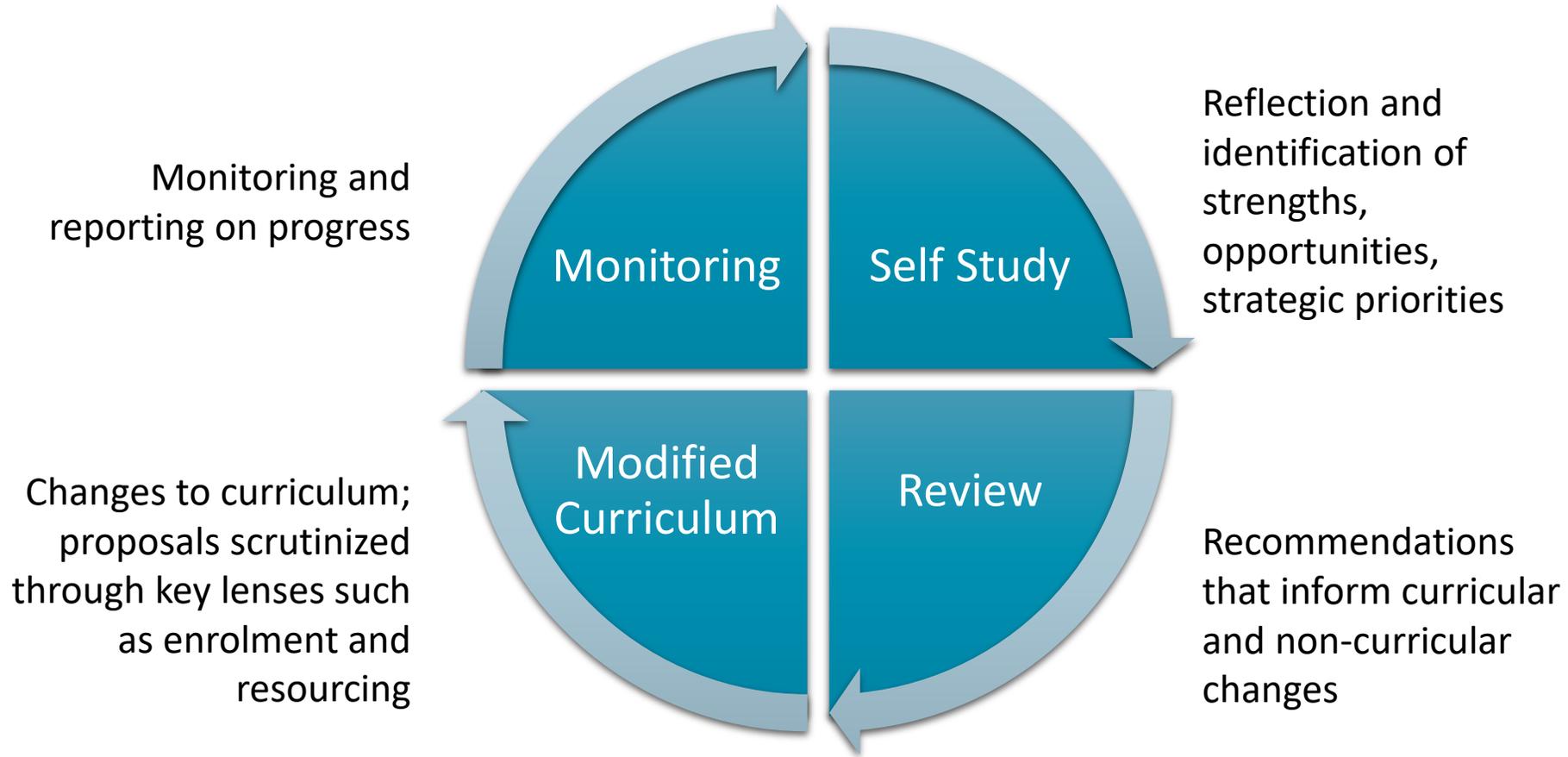
GOVERNANCE DOCUMENTATION

- 3 new courses
  - POLB40H3: Quantitative Reasoning for Political Science and Public Policy
  - POLC30H3: Law, Politics and Technology
  - POLD82H3: Politics and Literature
- 4 course modifications
  - POLB91H3: Introduction to Comparative Politics
  - POLD02Y3: Senior Research Seminar in Political Science
  - POLD09H3: Advanced Topics in International Security
  - POLD89H3: Global Environmental Politics

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no significant financial implications to the campus operating budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

Be It Resolved:

THAT the proposed Social Sciences undergraduate curriculum changes for the 2024-25 academic year, as detailed in the respective curriculum reports, be approved.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

1. 2024-25 Curriculum Cycle Undergraduate Minor Curriculum Modifications for Approval Report: Human Geography, dated February 8, 2024.
2. 2023-24 Curriculum Cycle Undergraduate Minor Curriculum Modifications for Approval Report: Political Sciences, dated February 8, 2024.

INSPIRING INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO SCARBOROUGH

EXAMPLES OF ITEMS PRESENTED TO AND REVIEWED BY THE UTSC ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE IN 2024-25

MINOR AND MAJOR MODIFICATIONS

- Out-of-cycle new courses to be offered in Winter and Summer 2025

- Curriculum changes in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences in undergraduate and graduate levels

- Changes to admission requirements for UTSC's Combined Degree Programs with OISE's Master of Teaching

- Changes to update enrolment requirements, increase required work terms for Arts co-op programs, and streamline Co-op course codes

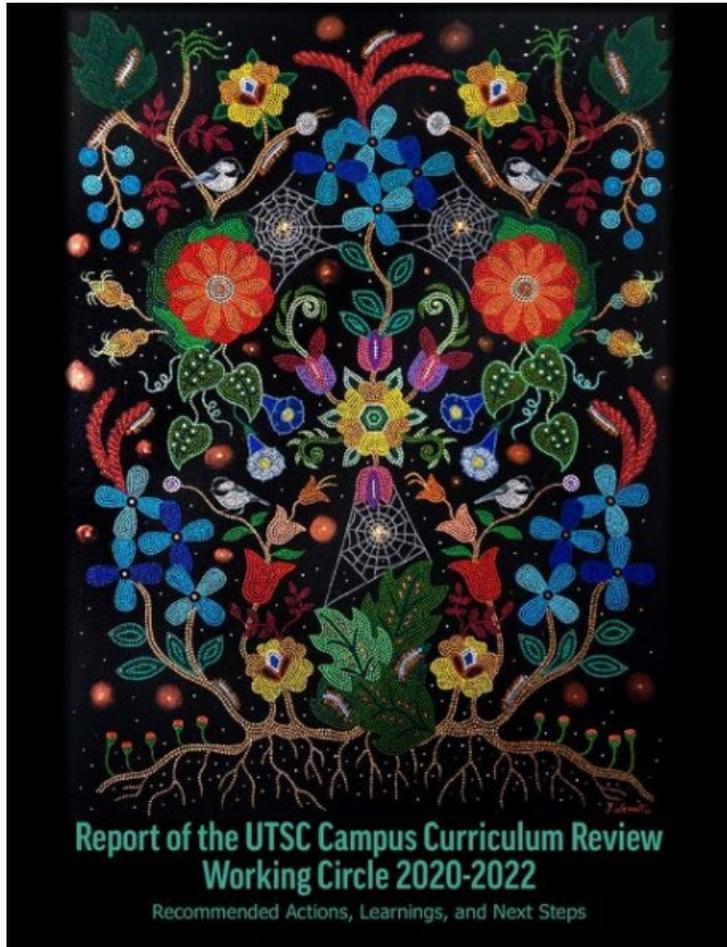## REVIEW OF ACADEMIC UNITS AND PROGRAMS

- Department of English

NEW PROGRAMS

- Major in Film Studies (HBA) from Department of English

- Major in Climate Change Studies (HBA) from Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences

CHANGES TO ACADEMIC REGULATIONS AND POLICIES

- Courses at Other Universities (Letters of Permission and Transfer Credit)

- Determination of Academic Status

- Petitions for Deferred Final Examinations

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STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT IN 2025-26

Report of the UTSC Campus Curriculum Review
Working Circle 2020-2022
Recommended Actions, Learnings, and Next Steps

- Priorities are guided by the extension of UTSC's 2020-25 Strategic Plan, *Inspiring Inclusive Excellence*

- Upcoming launch of SAMIH, the expansion of health sciences, the opening of Indigenous House, and a new Conservation Centre at the Toronto Zoo

- Experiential and land-based learning as key elements of UTSC's curricular innovations

- Institutional commitments to equity, anti-racism, Indigeneity, and accessibility, reflecting also the recommended actions of the 2022 UTSC Campus Curriculum Review Working Circle report

- Process enhancements, including a new Expression of Interest mechanism for academic units to submit ideas for future academic programs that support cross-departmental collaboration and growing interest in interdisciplinary and health sciences programming

INTERRELATED COMMITTEES SUPPORTING CURRICULAR WORK AT UTSC

- **UTSC Campus Curriculum Committee (CCC)**
  - Advisory body to the Office of the Vice-Principal Academic & Dean
  - Facilitates consultation and information-sharing around proposed curricular changes for the upcoming cycle prior to formal curricular proposal submissions

- **Health Across Disciplines Working Group (formerly known as HESA)**
  - Aims to foster collaboration across departments in the life sciences, humanities, social sciences, and in Management.
  - Proposals for new or significantly modified programming will be brought to this group for preliminary review and collective development

- **UTSC Campus Curriculum Review Working Circle**
  - Comprises students, faculty, librarians, staff, and community partners; follows circle-based process
  - Supports implementation of the curriculum review's recommended actions through leadership of departmental initiatives and through opportunities for shared learning and pedagogical development
  - Members also serve as liaisons for cross-campus resource-sharing and outreach, including through the Pedagogies of Inclusive Excellence (PIE) Forum.

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QUESTIONS OR NEED MORE INFORMATION? CONTACT US!

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