

(Agenda item #8, UAB Meeting of January 21, 2003)

**University of Toronto Governing Council
UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS BOARD 2002-03**

VICE-PROVOST STUDENTS

NEWSLETTER #3

December 18, 2002

Comments are welcome at sheldon.levy@utoronto.ca or (416) 978-5401

Transition Items

It has been my privilege to serve as Interim Vice-Provost Students for the past several months. In the new year, I look forward to working with Professor Dave Farrar as he assumes his new responsibilities. We have had the benefit of a number of discussions already, and there will doubtless continue to be many issues and initiatives where our portfolios will intersect in the interests of the students and the university. For the information of the Board I would like to share the list of some of the transition items which I have itemized for our new Vice-Provost Students in a memo of today's date:

- **Tri-campus meetings on attracting the best students** - The VPS has begun working with Admissions, the Registrar, and representatives from Arts & Science St. George, UTM, and UTSC to improve our record of acceptances from the very top students.
- **Provost's Task Force on Student Housing** - The membership is being established, and a schedule of meetings is being set up for the new year.
- **Report of the University Ombudsperson, September 2002** - Recommendations on which the VPS is taking action include *Recommendation 2* regarding implementation of the university Policy for Safety in Field Research in graduate programs; and *Recommendation 4* regarding a report on Emergency Preparedness and Crisis Response.
- **TTC implementation of VIP program** – Over the course of the implementation period, the students will be looking to the University of Toronto for leadership in addressing issues and questions as they arise.
- **OSAP Review** - Our agendas will intersect on this initiative next year. We have agreement with the three student groups on promoting OSAP changes. A letter to the Minister is being sent asking for a meeting in 2003, and Communications is preparing a story for early in the year. I think the students will be looking to the Vice-Provost Students to help promote the work of the Review Group.

SAC 101 Dinner – a nice note to go out on...

On December 12, a special evening was held celebrating one hundred and one years of student government at the University of Toronto. The VPS helped to sponsor the event attended by more than 300 people, including our esteemed guests: Dr. Gordon Bell, SAC President in the early 1940's; Bob Rae, and Tony Clement. In their remarks, the speakers encouraged present day students to get involved in student politics, recalling how their own experiences had been an important influence. The VPS also provided support for a commemorative book produced by SAC in honour of the anniversary and the treasured history of student government at the university.