



TO: University Affairs Board

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DATE: January 22, 2008 for January 29, 2008

AGENDA ITEM: 4

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Canadian Graduate and Professional Student Survey (CGPSS): Report on the Responses of Graduate Students, 2007

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The University Affairs Board is responsible for consideration of policy of a non-academic nature and matters that directly concern the quality of student and campus life. The Board has the mandate for monitoring matters within its area of responsibility including campus and student services.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The report on the 2005 Graduate and Professional Student Survey (GPSS) was presented to the Board (as part of “Report on the Student Experience: From Words to Action”) on February 14, 2006¹.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The University of Toronto conducted the 2007 Canadian Graduate and Professional Students Survey (CGPSS) in February/March 2007 (G13 and other Ontario universities also participated in the survey). This report summarizes responses from over 40% of registered graduate students at U of T. The report compares U of T results on key questions to CGPSS results from other Canadian universities. At a more general level, the report compares the 2007 results with our 2005 GPSS results and with the 2002 results from the Higher Education Data Sharing (HEDS)

¹ The 2005 GPSS report can be viewed at <http://www.utoronto.ca/govcncl/bac/details/ua/2005-06/uaa20060214-03ii.pdf>.

Consortium graduate student survey. Where appropriate, results are separated into three cohorts: doctoral, doctoral stream master's, and professional master's students.

Graduate students report considerable satisfaction with their programs and there are indications of strong scholarship, mentoring and good relationships among faculty and students. The survey also points out areas where we could focus our energy to make improvements, including information about financial support, support for interdisciplinarity, and the broad domain of “student experience.” An encouraging feature of the 2007 CGPSS is the improvement in the satisfaction expressed by professional master’s students in their assessment of their graduate program, compared to 2005.

During the past few weeks, the results for each graduate unit have been summarized and distributed to the program/department chairs. The faculty deans have received the results for their faculty and for each of their constituent graduate units. Results for doctoral stream and professional master’s students have been reported separately, where applicable. In addition, the School of Graduate Studies has summarized the results for each of the four SGS Divisions, for review and planning purposes.

It is planned to administer the CGPSS biannually, to provide important information on the views and experiences of our graduate students.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

The GPSS reports are used as a part of institutional performance indicators. They provide useful information to the University as we assess the objectives outlined in *Stepping Up: 2004-2010* at the University of Toronto.

RECOMMENDATION:

The report is presented for information.