



University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

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AGENDA ITEM: 5

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Reviews of Academic Units and Programs 2006-07– Annual Report Part I: Provostial Reviews

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee is the point of entry into governance for reports on the results of academic reviews commissioned by academic administrators. The role of the Committee is to ensure that the reviews are done, that an appropriate process is being used, that adequate documentation is provided and consultations are undertaken, and that issues identified in the review are addressed by the administration.

The compendium of review summaries is forwarded, together with the record of the Committee's discussion, to the Agenda Planning committee of the Academic Board, which determines whether there are any issues of general academic import warranting discussion at the Board level. The same documentation is sent to the Executive Committee of the Governing Council for information.

HIGHLIGHTS:

As per the *Policy for Assessment and Review of Academic Programs and Units*¹, reviews are important mechanisms of accountability for the University. Academic leaders commission regular reviews of academic divisions when principals, deans or chairs reach the end of their terms. The reviews of our academic programs are critical in ensuring the quality of our programs through vigorous and consistent processes. The reviews also inform the search for a new dean or chair and are an integral part of the academic planning process.

The full annual report includes twenty-three summaries of reviews and administrative responses of units and programs commissioned by the University in the 2006-07 academic year. Three reviews commissioned by the Vice-President and Provost are included: Faculty of Dentistry, Faculty of Physical Education and Health, and Woodsworth College. The overall assessments of these units and their academic programs were positive. Common themes were the continued emphasis on enhancement of the student experience and the excellence of academic programs.

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¹ <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Policies/PDF/reviewpgm.pdf>

As per the University's *Guidelines for Review of Academic Programs and Units*², programs offered by St. George colleges within the Faculty of Arts and Science are reviewed in the context of reviews of the relevant Arts and Science department(s) and their programs. Thus, the review of Woodsworth College does not include an external review of its academic programs, although the review does report on the administration of the programs and interactions with associated academic units.

These reports compliment the University's Performance Indicators and other institution-wide quantitative measures of our performance towards key goals and compares that performance to its peers.

The full review reports are available in the Office of the Governing Council should members wish to consult them.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

There are no new/additional financial resources required.

RECOMMENDATION:

For Information.

² <http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/Assets/policy/review/guidelinesreviews.pdf>