UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT & PROVOST

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

SPONSOR: Edith Hillan
CONTACT INFO: edith.hillan@utoronto.ca

DATE: May 8, 2008

AGENDA ITEM: **6**

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:
Standards of Professional Practice Behaviour for All Health Professional Students

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:
The Committee recommends to Academic Board for approval amendments to divisional academic policies or practices or amendments to existing ones which affect the whole division or amendments to University-wide policies.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:
Governing Council has approved three separate professional standards:

Standards of Professional Behaviour for Medical Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students of the Faculty of Medicine (June 28, 1995)
Social Work Code of Ethics (August 31, 1995)
Standards of Professional Behaviour for Pharmacy Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students of the Faculty of Pharmacy (August 26, 1996)

HIGHLIGHTS:
The Council of Health Science Deans[1] reviewed the standards and processes within the health science faculties with the aim creating the proposed single *Standards of Professional Practice Behaviour for All Health Professional Students* (Appendix 1) that would apply to all health professional students in clinical case settings. The Faculties of Medicine, Pharmacy, and Social Work currently have a University policy on standards of professional practice (Appendices 2, 3, and 4), although all three considered that their policies required updating to align with practices within the Faculties.

The Council considers that one policy for all the health professional students will provide consistency of information communication and application of procedures across related professional disciplines. Each Faculty will have associated guidelines for their division that articulate the processes for assessment and procedural aspects of the Standards.

45595 v3

---

[1] The Council of Health Science Deans includes the Deans of the Faculties of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Physical Education & Health, and Social Work.

The Council has consulted broadly within the health science faculties and the School of Graduate Studies to produce the attached. The *Standards* have been approved by the respective health sciences Faculty Councils: Lawrence Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing (February 6, 2008), Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work (March 25, 2008), Faculty of Dentistry (April 3, 2008), Faculty of Medicine (May 8, 2008), Faculty of Physical Education and Health on April 30, 2008, and the Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy (April 17, 2008). The Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), which has programs in Counselling Psychology and School and Clinical Child Psychology, approved the Standards at its Faculty Council meeting of April 16, 2008.

There are also students from other Divisions that are occasionally placed in health science settings. When they are in such settings, other Divisions may wish to consider adopting these guidelines if they have such students. There have been discussions with additional units for whom the *Standards* might apply, both currently and in the future.

The Standards are proposed to be effective as of September 2008 and each Faculty will distribute the information to its students in a timely manner to their respective students.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:
There are no new/additional financial resources required to implement the *Standards*.

RECOMMENDATION:
The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs recommends to the Academic Board:

> THAT the *Standards of Professional Practice Behaviour for All Health Professional Students*, be approved, effective September 2008;

> and

> THAT the *Standards of Professional Behaviour for Medical Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students of the Faculty of Medicine* (approved June 28, 1995) and the *Social Work Code of Ethics* (approved August 31, 1995) and the *Standards of Professional Behaviour for Pharmacy Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students of the Faculty of Pharmacy* (approved August 26, 1996) be rescinded.