



TO: Academic Board

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DATE: March 18, 2009, 2009 for March 26, 2009

AGENDA ITEM: 10

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

*Performance Indicators for Governance: Measuring UP (2008)*

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Terms of Reference for the Executive Committee state that the Committee reviews and reports to the Governing Council on the discharge of the Council's accountability requirements, including but not limited to the annual Performance Indicators report.

The Governing Council receives the annual Performance Indicators Report for information.

In 1994, the Governing Council approved in principle a recommendation of the Broadhurst Task Force on Ontario University Accountability that standard institutional performance measures should be approved by governing boards and reported on in a consistent manner.

The Academic Board receives a copy of the annual Performance Indicators Report for information.

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

In 1997, the Governing Council formally approved a list of institutional performance indicators relating to central dimensions of the University's mission and which, to the extent possible, allow for a comparison of performance against that of other universities. Annual reports are required, and this is the twelfth annual report.

The 2008 *Report* was received for information at the March 4, 2009 meeting of the Governing Council.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

The University of Toronto is respected as one of the foremost research-intensive universities in the world. It has educated hundreds of thousands of students and enjoys a global reputation in multiple fields of scholarships. The University has considerable

strengths and notable achievements. Building on successes will require careful monitoring.

The University of Toronto has been a leader in the post-secondary sector in Ontario in providing a performance indicator report as part of our accountability to governance. An annual Performance Indicators Report has been presented to Governing Council since 1998. The indicators in these reports have changed over the years as we have expanded the scope of areas that we have sought to measure, have enhanced our data collection and created partnerships with other institutions and agencies that allow for external benchmarking. The seventy measures included in the project span a range of teaching and research areas.

This year the project involved new analysis in a few key areas including: research publication and citation data at the field level; a third year of National Survey on Student Engagement (NSSE) results; further refinement of the counting of faculty and development of student-faculty ratios; continued work on the humanities indicator project; and, an analysis of the impact of tuition on retention and graduation. The appended summary document provides highlights of our recent performance in some of these areas.

In addition, this year's report attempts to align our measures against the 2030 Framework approved in principle by Governing Council on October 23, 2008. This exercise has resulted in the development of a few new measures and the elimination of others. The refinement of the 2030 performance measures will continue in future years of the project. Thirty measures are featured in the appended summary document. **A comprehensive inventory of our performance measures can be found at:**  
<http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/public/reports/performanceindicators/pi-2008.html>.

Major findings include:

- The University employs award-winning faculty
- The University's research output and strength is unparalleled in Canada and for some fields in North America
- Research funding from the Granting Councils is increasingly competitive
- The University needs to do more to attract investment and partnerships with industry
- More sustained research partnerships with industry are needed to support commercialization and knowledge transfer
- New capital infrastructure is needed at the University, particularly UTSc
- While some investments have been made, the deferred maintenance back-log remains significant
- The University continues to be attractive to a growing number of undergraduate and graduate students
- Tuition fee increases have not impacted retention and graduation of our students
- Despite a student-faculty ratio that remains high, our undergraduate students have responded more positively about their experience
- Our graduate students continue to respond positively about their experience at the University
- Our fundraising achievement is at a record level
- A significant gap in per student funding continues to exist between the University and its peer institutions

It should be noted that in addition to the Performance Indicator's report, the University of Toronto continues to publish a number of other detailed accountability reports. A large amount of data is also made available annually regarding our performance. This additional information includes: the Multi-Year Accountability Agreement and annual Report-Backs to Government, the Common University Data Ontario (CUDO), the National Survey on Student Engagement (NSSE) Report, and the Canadian Graduate and Professional Survey (CGPSS) Report. Below, please find a link to the University's "Accountability Page" that links to the available measures of our performance:

<http://www.utoronto.ca/about-uoft/measuring-our-performance.htm>

**FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:** N/A

**RECOMMENDATION:**

For information.