

TO: Planning and Budget Committee

SPONSOR: Cheryl Misak, Vice-President and Provost

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DATE: October 5, 2009 for October 28, 2009

AGENDA ITEM: 12

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:** Academic Planning in the context of Towards 2030

### **JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION**

The Committee is responsible for monitoring planning activities and documents as may be required by general policy. The Committee receives periodic reports from the Vice-President and Provost on the implementation of academic plans.

### **PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN**

On October 23, 2008 Governing Council approved in principle the *Towards 2030: A Third Century of Excellence at the University of Toronto*.

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

The University of Toronto has affirmed, in *Towards 2030: A Third Century of Excellence at the University of Toronto*, to strengthen its position as one of the world's leading publicly-assisted universities. *Towards 2030* sets out the long term and overarching goals for the University with respect to matters such as enrolment, the student experience, the three campus model, resources, funding models, and university governance.

In order keep itself on its trajectory and to protect and enhance its core values (excellence in research, education, and accessibility) the University engages in careful local academic planning. Faculties or divisions (such as UTM and UTSC) determine their visions, priorities and implementation plans, coherent with the University's aims. These divisional plans speak to teaching, undergraduate and graduate enrolment, research, government advocacy, financial resource development, and capital plans. They are the structures in which faculty, students and staff operate and thrive.

The planning model under which we have been operating during the last two planning cycles is one in which all divisions have planned simultaneously, every five years, on the heels of a University-wide plan. Circumstances arise, however, that can prevent divisions from planning during the required timetable.

After much discussion and consultation, we have decided to break from the pattern of requiring divisions to engage in their planning processes simultaneously. Rather, we will ask them to put together plans within two years of a new dean coming into place or within a year of decanal

reappointment. Local planning will be an ongoing matter, to be systematically thought through when there is a change in leadership.

*Academic Planning in the context of Towards 2030* sets out the rationale and process of academic planning for faculties or divisions. The document was developed in extensive consultation with Principals and Deans.

## **BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS**

As noted when *Towards 2030* was approved by Governing Council, the implications of long-term planning are neither immediate nor specific. Academic plans of individual faculties and schools are developed in consultation with the unit's academic community as well as with the Office of the Vice-President and Provost and are approved at the divisional level. Future university-wide decisions arising from or informed by these plans with major financial or academic implications will be brought through the usual processes, involving the Boards and Committees of the Governing Council as appropriate.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

For Information.