



TO: Business Board

FROM: Cheryl Misak, Vice-President and Provost

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AGENDA ITEM: 16

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION: University of Toronto Art Collections Policy**

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Business Board has responsibility for all University-owned property, including its works of art. The Board approves policies governing the University's art collections

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

There is currently no approved University-wide policy that governs art collections<sup>1</sup>. Individual University divisions have their own processes to make decisions about works of art.

The University of Toronto Art Committee ("Committee") was re-established in 2007 based on the recommendation of the Report on the Review of the University of Toronto Art Centre (2006)<sup>2</sup>. The Committee is mandated to focus on policy and collections for the entire University, recommend policies around the University's overall acquisition and care of art and ensure policies are applied consistently across the three campuses<sup>3</sup>. The Committee is advisory to the President, and is chaired by the Vice-President and Provost or designate.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

The proposed *University of Toronto Art Collection Policy* sets out the principles and processes through which works of art are added to, maintained within, or removed from the University of Toronto Art Collection. The University of Toronto Art Collection spans all three campuses of the University and the collection at Hart House. The scope of the *Policy* includes the specific group of works within the University's Art Collection, rather than the larger and varied collections of art that exist in the University

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<sup>1</sup> In 2001, the President approved a document entitled *University of Toronto Art Collections Policy* ("2001 Guidelines"). The processes outlined in the Guidelines only applied to the collection at the Art Centre. Based on the 2006 Provostial Review, revisions to the University of Toronto Art Centre Board's Terms of Reference were approved by Business Board on June 21, 2007. The revisions clarified and separated accountabilities for the Centre from the more general responsibilities for the University's art collections and policies that govern them.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/Assets/Provost+Digital+Assets/Provost/artcentrerev.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/committees/standing/art\\_committee.htm](http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/committees/standing/art_committee.htm)

and its divisions. The collections of the federated universities are not part of the University of Toronto Art Collection. It is intended and hoped that the principles and standards the Policy describes will guide other collecting bodies connected to and within the University.

As there is currently no approved University-wide policy that outlines the principles that should govern the University of Toronto Art Collection and as a result of the recommendations in the 2006 Review, the Vice-President and Provost initiated the development of University-wide art collections policy.

Over the past two years, the Office of the Provost has worked with the University of Toronto Art Committee and the Provost's Curators and Directors Group to develop a policy that would set the overarching principles that should apply to the University of Toronto Art Collection. The Committee, which is advisory to the President, comprises the heads of University of Toronto divisions with art galleries and collections, the heads of the Federated Universities, and the Chair of the Art Centre Board, or their designates. The curators and directors of all galleries and collections at the University serve as non-voting assessors. The Provost's Curators and Directors Group includes representation from the University of Toronto Art Centre, the Blackwood Gallery (University of Toronto Mississauga), the Doris McCarthy Gallery (University of Toronto Scarborough), and the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery (Hart House). The various divisional process documents were reviewed and discussions followed with the units responsible for University art collections. University Campus and Facilities Planning, and the Business Affairs and Development Counsel of the University Advancement Office have also been involved in the development of the *Policy*.

The *Policy* was approved in principle by the University Art Committee on May 26, 2009 and minor revisions were circulated to the Committee on October 29, 2009. Final changes were discussed and approved by the Committee on December 7, 2009. On November 5, 2009, the document was presented to the Hart House Board of Stewards for information.

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

Existing divisional processes dovetail with the proposed Policy. There are no financial implications.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT the *University of Toronto Art Collections Policy*, a copy of which is attached hereto as Appendix A, be approved effective immediately.