UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

TO: Members of the Academic Board

SPONSOR: Ellen Hodnett, Chair, Academic Board

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DATE: March 10, 2011 for April 26, 2011

AGENDA ITEM   5

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Academic Board and Committees – Terms of Reference: Revisions Re Approval of Academic Programs

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Section 2(14) (e) of the *University of Toronto Act* empowers the Governing Council to "appoint committees and delegate thereto power and authority to act for the Governing Council . . . ." Such delegation of authority is limited to committees consisting of a majority of members of the Council, apart from the following areas: examinations, awards for academic achievement, admission standard, curricula and degree requirement. In other matters, the Academic Board must make recommendations to a higher level of governance – the Governing Council or its Executive Committee.

The Governing Council achieves the delegation of authority through its approval of Board and Committee terms of reference. Traditionally Boards make recommendations to the Governing Council for amendment of their own terms of reference.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN

On June 24, 2010, the Governing Council approved the revised Policy for Approval and Review of Academic Programs. It also received for information the detailed University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process, which has been submitted to the Ontario Universities Council on Quality Assurance (the "Quality Council") for ratification.

On October 28, 2010, the Governing Council approved in principle the recommendations of its Task Force on Governance.

For several years, the University has been operating on the basis of a new budget model which provides greater transparency and divisional responsibility.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Approval of new programs**. The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs would consider, and when necessary, make academic program recommendations to the Academic Board for approval of programs in a number of specific categories:

    o programs leading to new degrees;
    o the addition and termination of joint degrees and programs with external institutions;
    o the renaming of degrees; and
    o programs that establish significant new academic directions for a Faculty or are anticipated to have a substantial impact on relationships amongst divisions or with the public.

    New programs in those categories would be approved by the Academic Board, subject to the confirmation of the Executive Committee of the Governing Council. There would no longer be need for such proposals to go forward to the Governing Council.

    Except where proposed new programs would require additions to a division's approved budget, or where they would have significant effects outside of the division offering the program, the Planning and Budget Committee would not be asked to concur with a recommendation for program approval.

    The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs itself would consider and, where it deems it appropriate, approve new programs, as defined by the Quality Assurance Process, other than those in the categories above.

- **Approval of the closure of programs**. It has been established by precedent that approval of the closure of programs requires the same process for approval as their establishment. It is proposed that this be made specific in the terms of reference.

- **Divisional approval of modification of existing programs**. The strengthened process for the approval and review of academic programs, and the stronger governance role of the Governing Council with respect to that process, enables the delegation of authority to the Councils of the academic divisions to approve modifications of existing programs. This would be consistent with the approved recommendation of the Task Force on Governance for delegation of authority with respect to transactional matters to the lowest appropriate level of governance.

Those modifications defined as "major modifications" in the University's Quality Assessment Process would be included in an annual report for information to the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs.

- **Approval of the establishment and closing of diploma and certificate programs**. The definition of the types of diploma and certificate programs requiring approval would be established in a revised Policy on Diploma and Certificate Programs, which Policy could be revised more readily than the terms of reference.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS: N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

Be it Recommended

(a) THAT the proposed amendments to sections 3, 4.4, and 4.9 of the terms of reference of the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs, and the proposed amendments to the section of the "Guidelines Regarding Levels of Approval" dealing with Academic program proposals, be approved.
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(b) THAT the proposed amendment to the terms of reference of the Planning and Budget Committee, as described in Attachment "B" hereto, be approved; and

(c) THAT the proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Academic Board, as described herein, be approved.