



February 21, 2014

Professor Sioban Nelson
Vice Provost, Academic Programs
Simcoe Hall
University of Toronto

Dear Sioban:

**Re: Master of Management and Professional Accounting and
Diploma in Investigative and Forensic Accounting Review**

I am writing in response to the request by the Committee of Academic Policy and Programs in regards to the external review of the Master of Management & Professional Accounting (MMPA) and Diploma in Investigative & Forensic Accounting (DIFA) conducted in March of 2012. The Committee has requested a one-year follow-up report to focus on structure. Specifically, the reviewers raised concerns about the future organizational and functional structure of both programs. At the time, the plan was to move both the MMPA and the DIFA programs into the planned, but not yet approved, Institute for Management & Innovation (IMI). It was unclear how this movement would proceed and to what extent the new Institute would enhance the resources available to support the MMPA program. Lack of autonomy in terms of budget and hiring as well as excessive reliance on sessional faculty and faculty teaching on overload were identified as problematic structural issues by the reviewers. In addition, the reviewers highlighted the need to develop a sustainable administrative structure for the two programs given the likely retirement of their current Director.

At this time, I am pleased to note that IMI has received governance approval and started to operate as an effective EDU-B. We have appointed a Director with extensive administrative experience who is steering the Institute through its initial year. The MMPA and DIFA programs have both been moved organizationally from out of the Professional Graduate Program Centre into IMI with the goals of implementing improved organization oversight, enhanced financial management and greater reliance on full-time research faculty to teach in IMI-based graduate programs.

As a first step towards enhancing the long-term viability of the Professional Accounting Programs at UTM (MMPA, DIFA, and undergrad B.Com.), UTM has created a Professional Accounting Centre (PAC, an EDU-C) that is based at IMI. The Centre will enable the generation of significant donations for research, and the development of academic resources. Students will be able to participate in research endeavours spawned by PAC and the new knowledge created will flow into our accounting programs. It is the view of the IMI and the MMPA directors that the PAC will raise the visibility of our MMPA and DIFA programs, and will signal to domestic students and faculty that UTM is an excellent place to study professional accounting

We have also taken some initial yet concrete steps to reconceive of the DIFA Program as a Masters in Investigative Forensic Accounting (MIFA). A report has been prepared by the Director, with consultation from external stakeholders, which has been met with enthusiasm. It is quite innovative in design and will clearly require further discussions and market testing. The Dean and Vice-Dean Graduate plan to hold consultative meetings about the reconfigured program with your office, the School of Graduate Studies and related cognate Schools and Departments in the very near future.

Finally, discussions have commenced with regard to the suitable replacement of the current Director who is nearing retirement. The Dean and the Director of IMI are committed to hiring a Full Professor of Accounting who will take on the management of the MMPA program as well as hire a new director of the reconceived DIFA/MIFA program. The current term of the Director runs until June 30, 2016 and these hires will happen well before that date.

Sincerely,



Amy Mullin
Vice Principal Academic and Dean
University of Toronto Mississauga

cc: Amrita Danieri, Vice Dean Graduate, UTM
Lynn Snowden, Assistant Dean, UTM
Melissa Berger, Program and Planning Officer, UTM
Jane E. Harrison, Director, Academic Programs and Policy
Justine Garrett, Coordinator, Academic Programs and Planning