

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

**REPORT NUMBER 166 OF THE COMMITTEE ON
ACADEMIC POLICY AND PROGRAMS**

February 25th, 2014

To the Academic Board,
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it met on Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at 4:10 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Simcoe Hall, with the following present:

Professor Douglas McDougall (Chair)
Professor Elizabeth Peter (Vice-Chair)
Professor Sioban Nelson, Vice-Provost, Academic Programs
Professor Brian Corman, Vice-Provost, Graduate Education and Dean, School of Graduate Studies
Professor Zhong-Ping Feng
Mr. Andrew Girgis
Dr. Gary P. Mooney
Ms Jessica Ng
Ms Daisy Qin
Ms Jennifer Raso
Professor Michael Ratcliffe
Ms Aditi Ratho
Ms Catherine Riddell

Professor Elizabeth M. Smyth
Professor Steven J. Thorpe
Professor Vincent Tropepe
Professor Cameron Walter
Professor Sandy Welsh

Mr. Richard Levin, Executive Director,
Enrolment Services and University Registrar

Secretariat:

Mr. Henry Mulhall, Secretary
Mr. David Walders, Acting Assistant Secretary
of the Governing Council

Regrets:

Professor Jan Barnsley
Ms Sara Dolcetti
Professor Paul Kingston
Mr. Yingxiang Li
Professor Emmanuel Nikiema
Dr. Graeme Norval
Professor Russell Pysklywec
Professor Markus Stock
Professor Scott Thomas

In Attendance:

Professor Anne-Marie Brousseau, Associate Dean, Undergraduate, Faculty of Arts and Science (FAS)
Professor Marcus Bussman, Vice-Dean, Graduate Studies, Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering (FASE)

Professor Greg Evans, FASE
 Ms. Justine Garrett, Coordinator, Academic Programs and Planning, Office of the Vice-
 Provost, Academic Programs
 Dr. Jane E. Harrison, Director, Academic Programs and Policy, Office of the
 Vice-President and Provost
 Professor Paul Kushner, Associate Chair, Undergraduate, Department of Physics, FAS
 Professor Jill Matus, Vice-Provost, Students and First-Entry Divisions
 Professor Amy Mullin, Vice-Principal, Academic and Dean, University of Toronto at
 Mississauga (UTM)
 Professor Cheryl Regehr, Vice-President and Provost
 Ms Mae-Yu Tan, Assistant Secretary of the Governing Council
 Ms Donna Wall, Director, Financial Aid and Awards, Office of Enrolment Services

ALL ITEMS ARE REPORTED FOR INFORMATION.

The Chair welcomed members and guests to the meeting. He introduced Mr. Henry Mulhall, the new Secretary to the Committee, and thanked Mr. David Walders for his contributions in that role during the previous year.

1. Annual Report on Student Financial Support, 2012-13

The Chair noted that the *Policy on Student Financial Support* required that this Report be submitted annually for information to the Committee. According to its Terms of Reference (s. 4.9), the Committee had general monitorial responsibility over academic matters. As such, it received reports, at least annually, on academic matters within its purview, including an annual report on student financial support.

Professor Matus highlighted three key points from the Report: the University was very strongly committed to meeting the financial needs of its students, and its student financial support programs had totalled \$164 M in 2012-13; the effective (net) tuition, after grants and scholarships, of undergraduate OSAP (Ontario Student Assistance Program) students was on average less than 50% of the published cost; and, average OSAP debt levels for students graduating from direct-entry programs at the University were decreasing, including for those with the highest debt levels. Mr. Levin added that the University's UTAPS (University of Toronto Advance Planning for Students) program, consisting of grants to cover financial needs not met by OSAP, was the most generous program of its type at any Ontario university. The University's students also had one of the lowest levels of OSAP debt default of any Ontario university.

2. Annual Report on Student Awards Established, Amended and Withdrawn: July 1, 2012 to July 30, 2013

The Chair reminded members that the *Policy on Student Awards* specified that the University Registrar report all new, amended and withdrawn awards annually to the Academic Board through the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs. In addition, as part of its general monitorial responsibility over academic matters, the Committee received an annual report on student awards. There were no questions from members.

3. New Graduate Collaborative Program: Engineering Education, FASE

The Vice-Chair assumed the Chair for this agenda item, since Professor McDougall had been involved in the development of the proposed Engineering Education Program in his role as a

faculty member of the Department of Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning (CTL) at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE).

The Vice-Chair noted that this was a proposal for a new Collaborative Program in Engineering Education at both the master's and Ph.D. levels. Under its Terms of Reference (s. 4.4.b.iii), the Committee approved new collaborative graduate programs and new fields in existing graduate programs. Professor Nelson summarized the highlights of the proposed program as contained in the cover sheet that had accompanied the documentation. In response to a question, Professor Evans clarified that research in engineering education already occurred in the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering. In response to demand, the collaborative program would provide students with further opportunities for pedagogical research.

On motion duly moved, seconded, and carried

YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED

THAT the proposed graduate collaborative program in Engineering Education, as described in the attached proposal from the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering dated December 9, 2013, be approved, effective for the academic year September 2014.

Professor McDougall reassumed the Chair.

4. Closure: Major in Logic Within the Existing Honours Bachelor of Arts, UTM

The Chair made the following introductory comments regarding agenda items 4, 5, and 6, all of which were proposals for the closure of academic programs. The University's Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP) clearly delineated the processes for the establishment of new programs, major modifications to existing programs, and the closure of programs. As a general matter, the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs approved the creation of new undergraduate programs within an existing degree, and recommended to Academic Board the approval of new graduate degree programs. It also approved the closure of undergraduate programs within existing degrees and recommended for approval the closure of graduate degree programs. At the same time, responsibility for major modifications or changes to existing programs (both graduate and undergraduate) had been delegated to Faculty Councils. The Committee would receive an annual report on major modifications to existing programs at its final meeting of the governance year.

The Chair added that program closures were best understood as part of this larger context of curricular renewal whereby academic divisions and programs looked at their available resources, at student need and demand, faculty strength, and the evolution of scholarship in a field, and then made decisions about courses and program offerings. Ordinarily, programs were brought forward for closure where student interest had declined, or where other programs had been created that better responded to student needs. The decision to close a program was not taken lightly. At the same time, however, program closures created opportunity: to explore new areas, and to respond to student interests in new ways. In all cases, extensive consultation was undertaken with students and faculty.

Professor Nelson summarized the rationale for the closure of the program that had been provided in detail in the documentation. Professor Mullin emphasized the degree to which student demand for the program had declined, only 6 students having graduated with the major in logic since 2005. At the suggestion of a member, and with the unanimous agreement of members, a minor amendment was made to the motion to include the effective date of the program closure (September 1, 2016).

On motion duly moved, seconded, and carried

YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED

THAT the closure of the Major in Logic in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Toronto Mississauga within the existing Honours Bachelor of Arts, as described in the attached proposal from the University of Toronto Mississauga dated December 5, 2013, be approved effective September 1, 2016.

5. Closure: Major in Italian Second Language Learning Within the Existing Honours Bachelor of Arts, FAS

Professor Nelson summarized the rationale for the proposed closure. There were no questions.

On motion duly moved, seconded, and carried

YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED

THAT the proposed Major in Italian Second Language Learning within the existing Honours Bachelor of Arts, as described in the attached proposal from the Faculty of Arts and Science dated December 13, 2013, be approved, with an effective date of April 2014 for the closure of admissions and an anticipated program closure date of May 2017.

6. Closure: Minor in Physics Life and Environmental Science, FAS

Professor Nelson summarized the rationale for the proposed closure; members had no questions.

On motion duly moved, seconded, and carried

YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED

THAT the proposed closure of the Minor in Physics Life and Environmental Science, as described in the attached proposal from the Faculty of Arts and Science dated December 13, 2013, be approved, with an effective date of April 2014 for the closure of admissions and an anticipated program closure date of May 2017.

7. Guidelines on Academic Planning

The Chair stated that, under its Terms of Reference, the Committee “consider[ed] academic program proposals forwarded from divisional councils” including proposals for new degree programs and other proposals for academic change (s. 4.4). In addition, it was “responsible for monitoring academic matters” by receiving annual reports, including reports on “reviews of academic units and programs” (s. 4.9).

Professor Regehr stated that the draft Guidelines, which were before the Committee for discussion, had arisen from a process that had begun in 2009 in the context of the University’s *Towards 2030* long term planning exercise. In early 2011, Vice-President and Provost Cheryl Misak had established a Provostial Advisory Group on Academic Planning. The Advisory Group’s Report and draft recommendations, issued after more than a year of meetings, became the basis for the draft Guidelines on Academic Planning. These had been distributed widely over more than two

years, and had also been used on a pilot basis to inform the work of faculties and divisions which were in the process of developing academic plans. These had included the University of Toronto at Mississauga, and the Faculties of Kinesiology and Physical Education, Information, and Dentistry. The resulting academic plans had come forward to the Planning and Budget Committee and the Academic Board for information and feedback. The draft Guidelines were being brought forward initially to both the Planning and Budget Committee and the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs for discussion and feedback. They would return to governance at a later date for approval by the Planning and Budget Committee and the Academic Board. Feedback was also being sought from the Committee on Academic Policy and Planning because of its close involvement in the academic planning process. This included the Committee's oversight of reviews of academic programs and units, as well as its consideration of academic change proposals including the establishment and closure of academic programs. Members had no comments or questions, but the Chair reminded them that these could be submitted at a later date either directly to Professor Regehr or to the Secretary.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly moved, seconded, and carried

YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED

THAT the consent agenda be adopted and the items approved.

8. Report of the Previous Meeting: Report 165 – January 14, 2014

Report Number 165 of the meeting of January 14, 2014 was approved.

9. Business Arising from the Report of the Previous Meeting

There was no business arising from the Report of the previous meeting.

10. Date of Next Meeting – April 1, 2014 at 4:10 p.m.

11. Reports of the Administrative Assessors

There were no reports from the Administrative Assessors.

12. Other Business

The Chair reminded members that the Committee would consider a large number of Reviews of Academic Programs and Units at its next meeting. As in past years, members would be divided into reading groups, each of which would be assigned a portion of the full Compendium of Reviews. A spokesperson would report on behalf of the reading group at the Committee meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Secretary

Chair

March 4, 2014