



FOR INFORMATION

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OPEN SESSION

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

SPONSOR: Sioban Nelson, Vice-Provost, Academic Programs

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PRESENTER: Sioban Nelson, Vice-Provost, Academic Programs

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DATE: April 23, 2014 for May 13, 2014

AGENDA ITEM: 10

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Report on the Reviews of Graduate Collaborative Programs: 2013-14

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) Terms of Reference (Sections 3 and 4.9) states that “The Committee...has general responsibility...for monitoring, the quality of education and the research activities of the University. In fulfilling this responsibility, the Committee works to ensure the excellent quality of academic programs by...monitoring reviews of existing programs....The Committee receives annual reports or such more frequent regular reports as it may determine, on matters within its purview, including reports on the ...[r]eviews of academic units and programs.”¹

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. Committee on Academic Policy and Programs [For Information] (May 13, 2014)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

Governing Council approved *the Policy for Approval and Review of Academic Programs and Units* in 2010. The *Policy* outlines University-wide principles for the approval of proposed new academic programs and review of existing programs and units.² Its goal is to align the University’s quality assurance processes with the Province’s Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) through establishing the authority of the University of Toronto’s Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP).

The scope of the UTQAP includes collaborative programs. In line with the COU's QAF, the University of Toronto understands a collaborative program to be "an intra-university graduate program that provides an additional multidisciplinary experience for students enrolled in and completing the degree requirements for one of a number of approved programs. Students meet the admission requirements of and register in the participating (or 'home') program but complete, in addition to the degree requirements of that program, the additional requirements specified by the collaborative program. The degree conferred is that of the home program, and the completion of the collaborative program is indicated by a transcript notation indicating the additional specialization that has been attained."³ The learning outcomes of a collaborative program are in addition to those supported by the home program.

In implementing the UTQAP it was agreed that the Vice-Provost Graduate, Education and Dean of the School of Graduate Studies would commission collaborative program reviews and prepare an annual report on their outcomes and implementation plans. Because of the unique nature of collaborative programs, their review process focuses on the quality of the "additional multidisciplinary experience" that collaborative programs provide, over and above the experience associated with the home program. Reviews emphasize elements that are critical to determining ongoing quality of collaborative programs at the University of Toronto, including:

1. Clarity and appropriateness of requirements
2. Evidence of successful attainment of learning outcomes
3. Evidence of ongoing need and demand
4. Continuing support of participating programs and supporting units (e.g. renewal of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA))

This is the third report on the reviews of graduate collaborative programs to come forward to the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs under the UTQAP.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Four external reviews of collaborative programs were commissioned by the Vice-Provost, Graduate Education and Dean of the School of Graduate Studies in 2013-14, and three were completed – Cardiovascular Sciences; Health Services and Policy Research; and Knowledge Media Design. The fourth review, that of the Collaborative Program in Astrophysics, was cancelled, as the Faculty of Arts and Science plans to bring forward for approval a proposal to close the Collaborative Program. The submission to the AP&P consists of a table that summarizes the review outcomes, administrative responses, and implementation plans for each review.

Overall, the reviews indicate that the collaborative program requirements are clear and appropriate, but there were suggestions that program information be updated on the respective websites and that home programs consider further how requirements are met. Student feedback indicates an ongoing demand for two of the programs. However, concerns were expressed about the need and demand for the master's level program in Health Services and Policy Research, and a follow-up report was requested by September 1, 2014. The lead faculties of all of the collaborative programs will continue to monitor enrolment. The renewal of the MOAs, which is

part of this review process, provides an important opportunity to clarify participation in and support for the collaborative programs. In certain instances, affiliated units continue to provide strong support for the collaborative programs, while in others, some programs will discontinue their participation.

The reviews made important recommendations on how these matters could be improved. The administrative responses of the collaborative program Directors and the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies addressed these issues and others.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

¹Committee on Academic Policy and Programs Terms of Reference, sections 3 and 4.9.

<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Boards+and+Committees/Committee+on+Academic+Policy+and+Programs/apptor.pdf>

²<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Policies/PDF/acaprogunits.pdf>

³COU Quality Assurance Framework, page 4. [http://www.cou.on.ca/related-sites/the-ontario-universities-council-on-quality-assura/pdfs-\(1\)/quality-assurance-framework---guide-may-2012](http://www.cou.on.ca/related-sites/the-ontario-universities-council-on-quality-assura/pdfs-(1)/quality-assurance-framework---guide-may-2012)

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

Graduate Collaborative Program Review Summary, 2013-2014

University of Toronto
Graduate Collaborative Program Review Summary, 2013-2014

Commissioning Officer: Vice Provost, Graduate Education

Collaborative Program Definition:	"an intra-university graduate program that provides an additional multidisciplinary experience for students enrolled in and completing the degree requirements for one of a number of approved programs. Students meet the admission requirements of and register in the participating (or 'home') program but complete, in addition to the degree requirements of that program, the additional requirements specified by the collaborative program. The degree conferred is that of the home program, and the completion of the collaborative program is indicated by a transcript notation indicating the additional specialization that has been attained" (QAF, page 4) The learning outcomes of a collaborative program are in addition to those supported by the home program.
Review Committee:	Dr. Elizabeth Smyth, Vice-Dean, Programs, School of Graduate Studies and Professor, Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (Chair) Dr. Markus Bussmann, Vice-Dean, Graduate Studies, Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering Dr. Brenda Cossman, Director, Collaborative Program in Sexual Diversity Studies Dr. Zhong-Ping Feng, Director, Collaborative Program in Neuroscience Dr. Stephen Rupp, Vice-Dean, Faculty and Academic Life, Faculty of Arts & Science
Review Committee Meeting Date:	January 27, 2014

		Findings (Areas of Strength, Areas of Concern, Recommendations)				Administrative Response & Implementation Plan
Collaborative Program & Lead Faculty	Participating Programs & Degrees	Clarity & Appropriateness of Requirements	Successful Attainment of Learning Outcomes	Ongoing Need & Demand	Continuing Support of Participating Programs and supporting Units/s	
Astrophysics Lead Faculty: Faculty of Arts and Science	Astronomy and Astrophysics (MSc) Physics (MSc)					Program has ceased admissions (effective Spring 2014). The Faculty of Arts and Science has indicated that a recommendation for program closure is forthcoming. Due to pending closure, a self-study report and MOA renewal is not required.
Cardiovascular Sciences Lead Faculty: Faculty of Medicine	Biomedical Engineering, MAsC, PhD Dentistry, MSc, PhD Exercise Sciences, MSc, PhD Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, MSc, PhD Laboratory Medicine and	Strengths: Well-established, truly interdisciplinary collaborative program with a definite focus. Concerns: Research Day forms the key common learning	Strengths: Strong research foundation provided by core faculty members who are invested in student development and offer unique learning opportunities such as clinical rounds.	Strengths: Well documented student feedback that is collected on a regular basis demonstrating an overwhelmingly positive response, noting that students would recommend the	Strengths: Large and diverse number of participating programs; high level of student support from financial awards and faculty involvement; strong reputation; impressive and	Collaborative program response confirmed that the student evaluation form has been updated; student enrolment from the various participating programs will continue to be monitored, and

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	Pathobiology, MSc, PhD Medical Biophysics, MSc, PhD Medical Science, MSc, PhD Nursing Science, MN, PhD Pharmaceutical Sciences, MSc, PhD Pharmacology, MSc, PhD Physiology, MSc, PhD Public Health Sciences, MSc, PhD Rehabilitation Science, MSc, PhD	experience; Collaborative Program website requires updating. Recommendations: Consider formalizing the seminar series as a program requirement (so it may be reflected on the transcript); update program website content.	Concerns: Language included on the Student Assessment Form requires revision, with regard to language surrounding academic integrity. Recommendations: The section on academic integrity in the Student Assessment Form requires revision.	collaborative program to others. Concerns: To ensure the program's continual growth and success the Program Committee may wish to consider succession planning.	thorough Annual Report. Concerns: Some participating programs have had historically low, or no enrolment, but have signed the revised MOA. Recommendations: The Program Committee should monitor enrolment from participating units with low or no historical enrolment. NOTE: Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry (MAsc, PhD) has joined the collaborative program and signed the renewed MOA. Health Policy Management and Evaluation (MSc, PhD), Public Health Sciences (MSc, PhD) and Nursing Science (MN, PhD) have discontinued participation in the collaborative program.	that the collaborative program website has been updated. The response also addressed the recommendation to formalize the lecture series as a program requirement and clarified why, at this time, it has chosen not to formalize the series with a course code. The response also clarifies that the core courses are serve as common learning experiences. Admin response is accepted by VPGE. No report due.
Health Services and Policy Research Lead Faculty: Faculty of Medicine	Exercise Sciences, MSc, PhD Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, MSc, PhD Medical Science, MSc, PhD Nursing Science, PhD Pharmaceutical Sciences, MSc,	Strengths: Practica requirement provides unique learning opportunities, that result in valuable networking and collaborative opportunities; seminar series	Strengths: Identified learning objectives of health care and services training are well met with program requirements. Concerns: Program objectives	Concerns: There has been no student enrolled at the master's level since 2009, and historically there were very low numbers of master's students.	Strengths: Collaborations with well-established health care industries and settings (for practica and rounds). Concerns: With the 2014	The response confirmed the recommendation to provide a follow up report by September 1, 2014. The Report will provide a viable plan for sustainable enrolment, which

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Graduate Collaborative Program Review Summary, 2013-2014

Commissioning Officer: Vice Provost, Graduate Education

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	PhD Public Health Sciences, MSc, PhD Rehabilitation Science, MSc, PhD Social Work, MSW, PhD	<p>provides a useful collaborative common learning experience for students.</p> <p>Concerns: Viability of practica as program requirement (funding expiration/number of hours may be deterring students); changes to program requirements have not been reviewed and approved through governance; program website and materials require updating following the expiration of the funding and arrangements with the Ontario Training Centre (OTC) in 2011/2012.</p>	<p>have not been updated since the expiration of funding, and delivery of these objectives no longer seems viable.</p> <p>Recommendations: Given concerns with Program enrolment (no enrolment at master's level) and viability, the Review Committee recommends the Program Committee cease admissions to the Collaborative Program and re-evaluate the program objectives, as well as the appropriateness and viability of program requirements; If the result of the deliberation of the Program Committee is to permanently cease admissions, a plan for supporting students currently enrolled is required.</p>	<p>Recommendations: The Review Committee requires that the Program Committee provide a report to the Vice-Provost Graduate Education by September 1, 2014. This report must include updated program objectives, a rationale explaining the appropriateness of program requirements, and a plan for sustainable enrolment.</p>	<p>withdrawal of Nursing as a participating program with students currently enrolled, there is a significant concern for enrolment numbers at the doctoral level.</p> <p>NOTE: Signing of the MOA was deferred until outstanding governance matters were approved. Now approved, the VPGE will sign the MOA upon submission to SGS.</p>	<p>will include a consideration of the appropriateness of continuing to offer a master's level program. The report will also provide updated program objectives. The response also provided a correction of fact regarding the funding of student practica placements, clarifying that the existing practicum requirement is not contingent upon the OTC funding.</p> <p>The response confirmed that proposed changes to program requirements (as a result of the expiration of OTC funding) were approved by the Faculty of Medicine (Feb 27/2014). The SGS Calendar and collaborative program website will reflect the recent changes and will be updated as appropriate. The response confirmed agreement to suspend admissions temporarily (effective immediately) during development of the Report.</p> <p>Report due Sept 1, 2014.</p>

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Knowledge Media Design Lead Faculty: Faculty of Information	Architecture, MArch Computer Science, MSc, PhD Curriculum Studies & Teacher Development, MA, MEd, PhD Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies, MA, PhD Information, MI Information Studies, PhD Language and Literacies Education, MA, MEd, PhD Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, MAsc, MEng, PhD Medical Science, MSc, PhD Museum Studies, MMSt Religion, MA, PhD Sociology, MA, PhD Urban Design, MUD Visual Studies, MVS	<p>Strengths: Core courses are required at both the master's and doctoral levels; Collaborative Program Steering Committee meets regularly, and provides valuable assistance to the Director, reviewing courses and requirements, and engaging in development planning for the Collaborative Program.</p> <p>Concerns: Program requirements for some participating programs cannot be met through elective room in the home degree program.</p> <p>Recommendations: The Program Committee should review the list of participating programs, with an eye to historical enrolment numbers and the consideration of how home degree programs incorporate the program requirements of the Collaborative Program.</p>	<p>Strengths: Collaborations with local industry and government provide valuable professional experiences for students in the Collaborative Program; positive student feedback, and overall satisfaction with program's focus on group work.</p> <p>Concerns: The Collaborative Program is in transition and details on next steps, a renewed program focus, and new learning outcomes, are not evident; the Review Committee notes that the core courses are taught by sessional lecturers.</p> <p>Recommendations: The Program Committee should provide a clear plan for the renewed program focus and learning outcomes; the Program Committee should consider ways to create synergies with the Knowledge Media Design concentration offered in the Master of Information program.</p>	<p>Strengths: Positive student feedback and overall satisfaction with program's focus on group work.</p>	<p>Strengths: Overall, consistent enrolment numbers; some participating programs with low or no enrolment will determine if they would like to discontinue participation; the Collaborative Program is housed in a stable administrative home with strong commitment from supporting unit.</p> <p>Concerns: The Review Committee notes that enrolment at the Master's level has declined by 50% (since the last review), and only certain participating programs with low or no enrolment have been removed.</p> <p>Recommendations: As part of the curriculum review currently being undertaken by a Curriculum Developer, the Program Committee should include the requirement that core courses be taught by core faculty members.</p>	<p>Collaborative program response indicated that a plan regarding the renewal of the program focus and development of revised learning outcomes is underway. The response also addressed the concerns regarding sessional lecturers teaching the program core courses and clarified that although sessional instructors do teach some of the courses, they do not develop the course content. There is a plan to have core faculty teach and be more involved in the core courses.</p> <p>The response confirmed that conversations are ongoing to ensure that participation in the collaborative program does not extend the home program length.</p> <p>The response also confirmed the commitment to a healthy balance of collaborating programs and to sustain viable enrolment numbers at both the master's and doctoral</p>

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					NOTE: Visual Studies (MVS) and Sociology (MA, PhD) have discontinued participation in the program.	levels of the program. Admin response is accepted by VPGE. No report due.

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4/22/2014