

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL
REPORT NUMBER 161 OF THE COMMITTEE ON
ACADEMIC POLICY AND PROGRAMS

April 16, 2013

To the Academic Board,
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it met on Tuesday, April 16, 2013 at 4:10 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Simcoe Hall, with the following present:

Professor Douglas McDougall (Chair)	Professor Paul Kingston
Professor Elizabeth Peter (Vice-Chair)	Ms Michelle Mitrovich
Professor Cheryl Regehr, Vice-Provost, Academic Programs	Professor Emmanuel Nikiema
Professor Karen D. Davis	Dr. Graeme Norval
Professor Joseph Desloges	Professor Janet Paterson
Mr. Michael Dick	Ms Judith C. Poë
Professor Zhong-Ping Feng	Professor Russell Pysklywec
Mr. Aidan Fishman	Ms Ioana Sendroiu
Mr. Omar Gamel	Ms Maureen Somerville
Professor Rick Halpern	Ms Tisha Tan
Mr. David Kleinman	Professor Steven Thorpe
	Dr. Sarita Verma
	Professor Sandy Welsh

Acting Secretary:
Mr. David Walders

Regrets:

Professor Brian Corman
Mr. Richard Levin
Professor Peter Lewis
Professor Suzanne Stevenson
Ms. Karel Swift
Professor Paul Young

In Attendance:

Ms Judith Chadwick, Assistant Vice-President, Research Services
 Professor Amy Mullin, Vice-Principal Academic and Dean, UTM
 Professor Yves Roberge, Principal, New College
 Professor Cristina Amon, Dean, Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering
 Professor Sal Bancheri, Chair, Department of Italian Studies
 Ms James DiCenso, Acting Chair, Department of Religion
 Professor Alison Keith, Chair, Department of Classics
 Professor John Kloppenborg, Chair, Department of Religion
 Helen Lasthiotakis, Assistant Dean & Director, Office of the Dean
 Professor Len Brooks, Director, Management and Professional Accounting program and Diploma in
 Investigative and Forensic Accounting
 Dr. Helen Chang, SGS Graduate Education Researcher
 Ms Justine Garrett, Coordinator, Academic Programs and Planning
 Dr. Jane Harrison Director, Academic Programs and Policy, Office of the
 Vice-Provost, Academic Programs
 Ms Margaret McKone, Executive Director, Munk School of Global Affairs
 Professor Melanie Newton, Director, Caribbean Studies
 Mr. Derek Newton, Innovations and Partnerships Office
 Ms Teresa Nicoletti, Administrative Coordinator
 Professor Paul Santerre, Director, Institute of Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering and its
 programs
 Professor Rob Vipond, Director, Dynamics of Global Change program, Munk School of Global
 Affairs

ALL ITEMS ARE REPORTED TO THE ACADEMIC BOARD FOR INFORMATION

1. Reviews of Academic Programs and Units, Part II

The Chair reminded members that the Committee had general responsibility for monitoring the quality of education and research activities within the University. This included undertaking comprehensive overviews of reviews of academic programs and units, monitoring the results of the reviews and administrative responses. Since the last report to the Committee, ten external reviews of units and/or programs, all commissioned by Deans, were received by the Office of the Vice-President and Provost. All were brought forth to the Committee for information.

For the review process, the Chair noted that members had been broken into four reading groups and that each group was given a list of programs and/or units to review. To guide their review, members of these groups were asked to consider three questions:

- i) Does the summary accurately tell the story of the full review?
- ii) Does the administrative response address all issues identified?
- iii) Are there any questions, comments or substantive issues that the Committee should consider? Is there need to ask that the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs bring forward a follow-up report?

In each instance, the informal lead of each group would be asked to present the findings of the group to the Committee but input would also be sought from all group members. The Chair also noted that representatives from the units/programs being reviewed were present to answer questions.

a) Faculty of Arts and Science: Department of Italian Studies and its programs

The group leader reported that the summary and the administrative response addressed all the main issues. The group noted the reviewer's view that there is a need for additional funding for the program, especially for additional faculty. A group member also requested additional information on two matters: the Department's plans to integrate literature, cultural and historical studies in the program and also its plans to attract high-quality graduate students to the program.

Professor Sandy Welsh noted that the Department had submitted additional funding requests, which would be reviewed based on faculty requirements in the program and also in light of the Faculty's budget situation. She also reported that the Department would be holding a retreat in the fall to discuss integration of various areas of study. Professor Sal Bancheri, Chair, Department of Italian Studies, commented that greater integration of the program would only be possible with increased faculty. He also noted that, while the overall quality of graduate students had improved, there were barriers to attracting top graduate students, including competition from US schools and a lack of funding for MA students.

The group requested a follow-up report in one year to address the issue of faculty renewal.

b) Faculty of Arts and Science: Department for the Study of Religion and its programs

The group leader reported that the summary and the administrative response addressed all of the main issues. The group had no questions and no follow-up report was requested.

c) Faculty of Arts and Science Department of Psychology and its undergraduate programs

The group leader reported that the summary and the administrative response addressed all of the main issues. The group noted criticisms in the review of student over-subscription and faculty/student ratio. They noted that similar concerns had been raised in the previous review in 2000. Professor Welsh replied that several measures would be taken to address student over-subscription and faculty/student ratios. These would include increased focus on admission streams, admission intakes and enrollment controls on programs, increasing faculty and rectifying a technical glitch with ROSI that led to over-subscription. She noted that overall numbers would be declining but that the focus would be to encourage growth in minor programs while restricting growth in major and specialist programs.

Professor Gillian Einstein, Undergraduate Director, Department of Psychology, added that the administration was looking into additional ways to enhance the student experience in the program, which may include the addition of online courses. Professor Welsh noted that, despite the high number of students, course evaluations are consistently high.

The group requested a follow-up report with a focus on managing student over-subscription. A report will be provided in two years.

d) Faculty of Arts and Science Department of Classics and its programs

The group leader reported that the summary and the administrative response addressed all of the main issues. No follow-up report was requested.

e) Faculty of Arts and Science: Caribbean Studies programs

The group noted that the review was very positive but that there was a lack of data available regarding faculty and students. Professor Welsh replied that, since it was a college-based program, less program level data are available. She added that this was a common issue with college-based programs and that steps were being taken to address this issue.

The group leader reported that the summary and the administrative response addressed all of the main issues. No follow-up report was requested.

f) Faculty of Arts and Science: African Studies programs

The group leader reported that the summary and the administrative response addressed all the main issues. No follow-up report was requested. One small typo was noted in the review, which Professor Welsh indicated would be corrected.

g) Faculty of Medicine: Department of Biochemistry and its programs

The group leader reported that the summary and the administrative response addressed all of the main issues. The group suggested that the summary be revised slightly to reflect some of the more minor issues discussed in the review, specifically the implementation of an ombudsperson or committee to help post-doctoral students; the strategy for dealing with infrastructural issues; and training in bioinformatics. The group also raised questions about the length of the completion times for MSc and doctoral students and whether there was a sustained budget model in place for the program.

Dr. Sarita Verma concurred that the summary be revised for to ensure completeness. She noted that completion times for the MSc and doctoral program were longer than usual and the administration was looking into this issue. With respect to the sustained budget, Dr. Verma advised that a new Chair has been hired in the Department and would be engaging in strategic budget planning within the first 18 months of assuming the role. She also noted that there was a consistent budget model across the faculty.

A follow-up report was requested in two years to address completion times for MSc and doctoral students as well as strategic budget modelling.

h) Faculty of Medicine: Department of Medical Biophysics and its programs

The group leader reported that the summary and the administrative response addressed all of the main issues. No follow-up report was requested.

i) Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering: Institute of Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering and its programs

The group leader reported that the summary and the administrative response addressed all of the main issues. No follow-up report was requested.

j) University of Toronto Mississauga: Management and Professional Accounting program and Diploma in Investigative and Forensic Accounting

The group leader reported that the administrative response addressed all of the main issues. The group requested that the summary be amended to include information about the proposed new structure for the programs, leadership transitions, the reallocation of administrative support, and

the impact of the mix of domestic and international students on co-op placements. The group leader also raised questions about a major accounting firm that was no longer participating in co-op placements. Professor Len Brooks, Director, Management and Professional Accounting program and Diploma in Investigative and Forensic Accounting, explained that the firm in question continued to be interested in attracting U of T students for co-op placements but that students themselves had accepted placements elsewhere. He speculated that this firm would again be a full participant in the co-op program in the future.

A member asked whether measures were being taken to improve the communication skills of students in the program. Another member asked about the perceived morale among students in the program. Professor Amy Mullin, Vice-President Academic and Dean, UTM replied that communication skills would be a more central part of interview preparation and the mentoring program for incoming students would also focus on improving communication skills. She stated that it was her understanding that morale was quite good. She added that the establishment of a dedicated Centre for Accounting on the UTM campus would likely be considered in the future.

A follow-up report was requested in one year to address the proposed structural changes.

Professor Regehr joined the Chair in thanking the review teams for their hard work and valuable contributions, and Dr. Helen Chang, SGS Graduate Education Researcher, for assembling the standardized data sets for all of the reviews.

2. Inventions Policy

The Chair noted that the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs reviews research policies on behalf of the Academic Board. The Academic Board was required by its terms of reference to consider research policies and forward recommendations to the Governing Council.

Dr. Sarita Verma inquired as to whether the Policy would be applicable to innovations in educational and teaching techniques including Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC's). Ms Judith Chadwick, Assistant Vice-President, Research Services, replied that the Policy was broad enough to encompass social media techniques for teaching and learning and that many of these innovations would also be brought under the Copyright Policy which would be forthcoming. Professor Regehr noted that the administration was currently working considering policy issues concerning MOOC's.

A member raised concern about the institutional ownership of Inventions with respect to how much ownership was retained by the inventor vis-à-vis that retained by the institution. He questioned whether this was in line with policies at other universities. Mr. Derek Newton, Innovations and Partnerships Office, replied that it was very difficult to compare universities because various metrics are used to judge institutional ownership of inventions.

On motion duly made, seconded and carried with one abstention,

YOUR BOARD RECOMMENDED,

THAT, the proposed revised *Inventions Policy* be approved, replacing the Policy approved by the Governing Council in 2007.

On the recommendation of a member, the Chair suggested that item four in the agenda be moved to item three and item three be moved to item four.

On motion duly made, seconded and carried

YOUR BOARD APPROVED,

THAT item four in the agenda be moved to item three and item three be moved to item four.

3. Program Closure: Collaborative Program – The Dynamics of Global Change

The Chair noted that the Committee approved the closures of collaborative graduate programs. Professor Regehr explained that, at its inception, the Dynamics of Global Change program had a lot of student interest, but that enrollment was now very low and that funding for the program was linked to enrollment. As such, the program was being closed.

On motion duly made, seconded and carried

YOUR BOARD RESOLVED,

THAT, the proposed closure of the Dynamics of Global Change Doctoral Collaborative Program, as described in the attached proposal from The Faculty of Arts and Science dated February 26, 2013, be approved with an effective date of September 1, 2013 for the closure of admissions and an anticipated program closure date of August 2013.

4. Research Administration Policy

The Chair noted that the Committee reviews research policies on behalf of the Academic Board. The Academic Board was required by its terms of reference to consider research policies and forward recommendations to the Governing Council.

A member raised a concern about the fact that that Committee approved policies but that guidelines that accompanied the policy were not brought to the Committee for approval and were rather approved and amended at the administrative level. Ms Chadwick replied that this was a

policy of the Governing Council, and any amendment to the Guidelines would be made in an open, transparent and consultative fashion.

On motion duly made, seconded and carried with one abstention

YOUR BOARD RECOMMENDED,

THAT, the proposed Research Administration Policy be approved, replacing the University of Toronto Policy on Research Agreements and the Recovery of Indirect Costs of Research the most recent revision of which was approved by Governing Council on April 26, 2007.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly made, seconded and carried,

YOUR BOARD APPROVED

THAT the consent agenda be adopted and the items approved.

5. Report of the Previous Meeting: Report 160 – February 26, 2013

Report Number 160, of the meeting held on February 26th, was approved.

6. Business Arising from the Report of the Previous Meeting

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

7. Minor Revision: Terms of Reference of Committee on Academic Policy and Programs Terms of Reference, Section 4.4(b) (iii)

The minor revision was approved.

8. Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday, May 14, 2013 at 4:10 p.m.

9. Report of the Administrative Assessor

Professor Regehr again thanked the review groups for their hard work.

10. Other Business

No other business was raised.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Secretary

Chair