

THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

REPORT NUMBER 209 OF THE ACADEMIC BOARD

April 20, 2017

To the Governing Council,
University of Toronto

Your Board reports that it held a meeting on Thursday, April 20, 2017, at 4:10 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Simcoe Hall.

Present:

Professor Andrea M. Sass-Kortsak,
Chair
Professor Nicholas Terpstra, Vice-
Chair
Professor Meric S. Gertler
Professor Sioban Nelson, Vice-
Provost, Academic Programs
and Vice-Provost, Faculty and
Academic Life; Acting Provost
Professor Vivek Goel, Vice-
President, Research and
Innovation
Professor Scott Mabury, Vice-
President, University
Operations
Professor Suzanne Conklin Akbari
Dr. Ramona Alaggia
Professor Catherine Amara
Professor Christina H. Amon
Professor Joshua Barker
Professor Dwayne Benjamin
Professor Heather S. Boon
Mr. Harvey T Botting
Professor Markus Bussmann

Mr. John Button
Dr. Graham Cromar
Professor Maria Cristina Cuervo
Mr. Dan G. D'Agostino
Professor Amrita G. Danieri
Professor Joseph R. Desloges
Professor Wendy M. Duff
Professor Nicholas C. Everett
Professor Zhong-Ping Feng
Professor Vivek Goel
Professor William A. Gough
Dr. Daniel Haas
Professor Richard Hegele
Professor Howard Hu
Professor Ira Jacobs
Professor Susan Jaglal
Professor Linda Johnston
Professor Glen A. Jones
Professor William Ju
Professor Stephen R. Julian
Professor Allan S. Kaplan
Professor Ronald H. Kluger
Professor Linda M. Kohn
Professor Mark Lautens

Mr. Ben Liu
Professor Reid B. Locklin
Mr. Austin Long
Professor Lorna Eleanor
MacDonald
Dr. Maureen MacDonald
Professor Jan K. Mahrt-Smith
Mr. Paul Malozewski
Professor Ryan McClelland
Mr. Sean McGowan
Ms Christine Moon
Dr. Graeme W. Norval
Dr. Helene Polatajko-Howell
Professor Michael J.H. Ratcliffe
Dr. Reinhart Reithmeier
Ms Catherine Riddell
Professor Yves Roberge
Ms Melinda Scott
Mr. Abdulwahab Sidiqi
Professor Anne Harriet Simmonds
Professor Elizabeth M. Smyth
Professor Steven J. Thorpe
Ms Wendy Wang
Ms Alena Zelinka

REGRETS:

Dr. Francis Kwabena Ahia
Professor Donald C. Ainslie
Professor Benjamin Alarie
Mr. Larry Alford
Mr. Mohammad Amin
Professor Maydianne C.B. Andrade
Ms Ana Patricia Ayala-Melendez
Professor Ryan Balot
Dr. Glen Bandiera
Ms Sophie Barnett
Professor Randy Boyagoda
Mr. Edvard Bruun
Professor David Cameron

Professor Kenneth S. Corts
Professor Gary W. Crawford
Professor Luc F. De Nil
Mr. Jacob Dimen-Wagner
Professor David Dubins
Professor Angela Esterhammer
Ms Rachel Ferenbok
Professor Tara Goldstein
Professor Robert V. Harrison
Mr. Joshua Hunter
Professor Thomas M. Hurka
Professor Edward M. Iacobucci
Professor Charlie Keil

Professor Jeannie Kim
Professor Jim Yuan Lai
Ms Jennifer J. Lau
Professor Tiff Macklem
Professor Alice Maurice
Professor Faye Mishna
Professor Emmanuel Nikiema
Mr. Alex I. Nyikos
Professor Lacro Pavel
Professor Michele Peterson-Badali
Professor David J. Phillips
Dr. Dana Joanne Philpott
Professor Cheryl Regeh

Updated May 2, 2017

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Ms Melinda Rogers
Mr. Rosten Role
Professor Locke Rowe
Mr. Jaspreet Sahota
Professor Mohini M. Sain

Professor Sonia Sedivy
Mr. Hugh D. Segal
Mr. Bingchen (Tony) Shan
Professor Richard M. Sommer
Professor Andrew M. Spence
Professor James Stafford

Professor Markus Stock
Professor Vincent Tropepe
Professor Njoki Wane
Professor Ning Yan
Dr. L. Trevor Young
Ms Samra Zafar

Non-Voting Assessors:

Mr. Gilbert Delgado, Chief of University Planning, Design and Construction
Professor William Gough, Vice-Principal, Academic & Dean, University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC)
Professor Susan McCahan, Vice-Provost, Innovations in Undergraduate Education

Ms Mae-Yu Tan, Secretary

In Attendance:

Mr. Andrew Arifuzzaman, Chief Administrative Officer, UTSC
Mr. Tad Brown, Counsel, Business Affairs and Advancement
Professor David Goldreich, Director, Rotman Commerce
Ms Helen Lasthiotakis, Executive Director, Strategic Partnerships and Office of the Vice-President, Research & Innovation
Mr. Michael Kurts, Executive Director, Communications Partnerships
Professor Penelope Lockwood, Vice Dean, Academic Planning & Strategic Initiatives, Faculty of Arts and Science
Dr. Daniella Mallinick, Director, Academic Programs, Planning, and Quality Assurance
Ms Archana Sridhar, Assistant Provost

Item 2 is recommended to the Executive Committee for confirmation, and Items 3 and 10 are recommended to the Governing Council for approval. All other items are reported for information.

1. Chair's Remarks

The Chair welcomed members and guests to the meeting. She noted that Professor Sioban Nelson, a Voting Assessor of the Board, was serving as Acting Provost. The Chair announced that Professor Regehr, Vice-President and Provost, was the recipient of the 2017 Angela Hildyard Recognition Award, given by the Senior Women Academic Administrators of Canada. She congratulated Professor Regehr and the Board applauded.

The Chair made a few announcements. She said that the 2017 – 2018 Academic Board meeting schedule was available [online](#) and asked continuing members to make note of the six meeting dates. She encouraged members to participate in the June 2017 convocation ceremonies. Twenty-seven ceremonies would be held between Tuesday, June 6th and Thursday, June 22nd. Information for faculty who wished to participate in the academic procession would be included in the Provost's weekly digest in May. As well, the Office of Convocation would send an email to administrative staff with similar information. Lastly, the Chair said that the U of T Alumni Impact

Survey had launched on Wednesday, April 19th. Email invitations would be sent to 260,000 alumni within the next week and alumni could complete the survey through a [website](#).

2. Program Closure: Master of Urban Design Studies

The Chair informed the Board that, on the recommendation of the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P), it was being asked to approve the proposed closure of the Master of Urban Design Studies degree program. Professor Elizabeth Smyth, the AP&P Chair, gave an overview of the proposal. In particular, she noted that there had been low demand for the program, which had been established fifteen years ago. At this time, the Faculty of Arts and Science wished to close the program and reallocate existing Faculty resources. The Faculty had administratively suspended admissions to the program in October 2014 and, currently, no students were enrolled.

Professor Nelson reminded the Committee that program closures were a normal and positive part of program evolution and quality assurance. In response to a question, she said that, as of June 2016, about 52 closures had been completed since the University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP) had been implemented in 2011 - 2012. They included closures of full degree programs, as well as of specialists or majors, graduate fields or concentrations, certificates, diplomas, or collaborative programs.

On motion duly moved, seconded, and carried

YOUR BOARD APPROVED

THAT subject to confirmation by the Executive Committee

THAT the proposed closure of the Master of Urban Design Studies (M.U.D.S.), Faculty of Arts and Science dated November 3, 2016, to which admissions were administratively suspended in October 2014, be approved, with an anticipated program closure date of August 31, 2020.

3. Capital Project: University of Toronto Scarborough New Student Residence

The Chair outlined the governance approval path for the proposed University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC) new student residence before inviting Professor Scott Mabury, Vice-President, University Operations, to introduce the capital project.

Professor Mabury informed the Board that the proposed ten-storey student residence was a much-needed project on the UTSC campus. It had significant positive implications for the University, and the benefits for student engagement, especially for first-year undergraduate students, would be far-reaching. The planned Passive House energy efficiency system that would be used for the building would serve as a model for Canadian student residences. As well, the project's financial structure, which had been approved by the Business Board, was unique in Canada.

During the Board's discussion, Professor Mabury elaborated on the UTSC's innovative use of a long-term investor partnership. UTSC would benefit from the tremendous expertise in building residences that existed within the private sector. At the same time, it would be able to deliver excellent student programming by maintaining responsibility for the residence's operations.

In response to a member's question, Mr. Andrew Arifuzzaman, Chief Administrative Officer, UTSC, stated that there would be 27 residential counsellors. Those administrative staff members would oversee the dons for the 750 students in the residence. The planned don to student ratio of 1:30 was consistent with that in other University residences.

On motion duly moved, seconded and carried

YOUR BOARD RECOMMENDED

1. THAT the Project Planning Committee Report for the University of Toronto Scarborough New Student Residence, dated February 21, 2017, be approved in principle; and
2. THAT the project scope of 14,321 net assignable square metres (nasm) (25,061 gross square metres (gsm)), consisting of 750 residence beds, a dining hall, amenity space, and retail space, be approved in principle - with partial funding to be provided through an investor equity contribution and with construction financing to be provided by the University of Toronto.

4. Reviews of Academic Programs and Units: November – December 2016

At the invitation of the Chair, Professor Smyth informed the Board that, at its meeting of March 29, 2017, the AP&P had received four follow-up reports on previous reviews of academic programs and units: University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM); Faculty of Music and its programs; Commerce undergraduate program (Faculty of Arts and Science; Joseph L. Rotman School of Management); and International Relations undergraduate program (Faculty of Arts and Science). Overall, feedback from the AP&P had been very positive. Members had praised UTM for having successfully increased the number of affiliated graduate students. As well, the multi-faceted approach to addressing student morale within the Commerce program had been appreciated.

A Board member asked for an explanation of an "affiliated" graduate student. Professor Amrita Daniere, Vice-Principal, Academic & Dean, UTM, said that graduate students admitted to research-stream degree programs at the University had the option of being affiliated with the UTM campus (as opposed to the St. George or the UTSC campus). Students typically elected to do so if they held teaching assistantships at UTM or if their laboratories were located there. Professor Daniere noted that, for the first time, there had been an increase in the number of UTM-affiliated graduate students. She added that all students registered in UTM professional master's programs were affiliated with the UTM campus.

Turning to the Semi-Annual Report on the Reviews of Academic Units and Programs, Professor Smyth provided a brief background on the review process and outlined the role of the AP&P in

relation to the reviews. She said that the AP&P had had a thorough discussion of two Provostial reviews (Dalla Lana School of Public Health (DLSPH) and the Faculty of Dentistry) and one Decanal review (Department of Medical Biophysics, Faculty of Medicine). New and recurring themes had been identified from the reviews. These included the excellent quality and comprehensiveness of programs and the research expertise and outstanding scholarly outputs of faculty. As always, areas for development had been noted, including ensuring support for graduate student time-to-completion and strengthening coordination across areas to support academic programs.

The AP&P had requested a one-year follow-up report from the Dean of the DLSPH to address the development of an operational/implementation plan based on the strategic plan, including how implementation would take place under the new Dean; steps to reduce the number of “silos” and increase integration within the Faculty; the recommendation to appoint a Deputy Dean (or equivalent) position, and; plans for reducing Ph.D. time-to-completion.

Professor Nelson commented that two of the reviews (Department of Medical Biophysics and the DLSPH) included programs that had been reviewed for the second time under the UTQAP. As such, those review materials had built on information contained in the [Final Assessment Reports and Implementation Plans](#) (FAR/IPs), allowing for greater refinement of and focus on key issues. Dean Haas, Dean Hu, and Vice-Dean Kaplan each expressed their appreciation for the reviewers’ helpful comments and suggestions.

A member praised the inclusion of student participation in the review process. It was important for the external reviewers to have the opportunity to speak with students in the programs and to learn of any concerns they might have. The member observed that the theme of graduate student time-to-completion had been identified in each review report. Professor Smyth stated that time-to-completion was a priority which the School of Graduate Studies was continuing to address through innovative initiatives. Professor Nelson praised Dean Locke Rowe’s leadership in providing academic units with student data that enabled them to develop customized solutions to their specific time-to-completion challenges.

The Chair thanked the guests who had attended the meeting in order to speak to the reviews.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly moved, seconded and carried

YOUR BOARD APPROVED

THAT the consent agenda be adopted.

5. Report of the Previous Meeting

Report Number 208, from the meeting of March 16, 2017 was approved.

6. Business Arising from the Previous Meeting

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

7. Items for Information

Members received the following reports for information:

- a. Report Number 231 of the Agenda Committee – April 11, 2017
- b. Report Number 184 of the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs – March 29, 2017

8. Date of the Next Meeting

The Chair stated that the next meeting would be held on Monday, May 29, 2017 at 4:10 p.m. She noted that she would not be present at that meeting. However, Professor Terpstra, Vice-Chair of the Board, would chair the meeting. The Chair thanked members for their service on the Board. In turn, a member thanked the Chair, and the Board applauded her.

9. Other Business

There were no items of other business.

The Board moved *in camera*.

10. Capital Project: Report of the Project Planning Committee for a New Student Residence at the University of Toronto Scarborough – Total Project Costs and Sources of Funding

On motion duly moved, seconded and carried

YOUR BOARD RECOMMENDED

THAT the recommendation concerning the University of Toronto Scarborough New Student Residence – Report of the Project Planning Committee, Total Project Cost, and Sources of Funding, as outlined in the memorandum from Professor Scott Mabury, dated April 20, 2017, be approved.

The Board returned to open session.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Secretary

April 27, 2017

Chair