



FOR INFORMATION

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TO:	Committee on Academic Policy and Programs
SPONSOR: CONTACT INFO:	Nicolas Rule, Vice-Provost, Academic Programs (416) 978-3948, vp.academicprograms@utoronto.ca
PRESENTER: CONTACT INFO:	Same as above
DATE:	March 24, 2026 for March 31, 2026
AGENDA ITEM:	4 (a)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Follow-up Reports on Reviews:

- a. Department of Art History, Faculty of Arts and Science
- b. Institute of Medical Science, Temerty Faculty of Medicine

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) is the point of entry into governance for reports, summaries and administrative responses on the results of reviews of academic programs and units commissioned by academic administrators. The role of the Committee is to ensure that the reviews are conducted in accordance with University policy and guidelines, that an appropriate process has been followed, that adequate documentation is provided and consultations undertaken, and that issues identified in the review are addressed by the administration. Under the University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process, the AP&P may request a one-year follow-up report when concerns are raised in an external review that require a longer period of response.

This report is forwarded, together with the record of the Committee's discussion, to the Agenda Committee of the Academic Board, which determines whether there are any issues of general academic significance warranting discussion at the Board level. The same documentation is also sent to the Executive Committee and Governing Council for information.

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. **Committee on Academic Policy and Programs [for information] (March 31, 2026)**
2. Agenda Committee of the Academic Board [for information] (April 9, 2026)
3. Academic Board [for information] (April 16, 2026)
4. Executive Committee of the Governing Council [for information] (May 4, 2026)
5. Governing Council [for information] (May 13, 2026)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

At its meeting on April 10, 2025, AP&P considered the following review:

- The February 2024 decanal review of the FAS Department of Art History and its programs, and the March 2025 decanal response. Considering that there were several matters of concern and complex issues to address, the AP&P requested a one-year follow-up to report on progress following the upcoming curriculum retreat(s) and mediated faculty retreat.
- The April 2024 decanal review of the MED Institute of Medical Science and its programs, and the March 2025 decanal response. AP&P requested a one-year follow-up report on the status of the GDipHR review.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- a. In response to concerns raised in the February 2024 UTQAP cyclical review, the Department of Art History held both a curriculum-focused faculty retreat and a mediated faculty retreat during the 2025-26 academic year. A five-hour faculty retreat held on December 3, 2025, addressed concerns related to the graduate curriculum and resulted in the adoption of revised policies regarding MA and PhD language requirements, PhD comprehensive examinations, and dissertation proposals, as well as discussion of potential changes to the MA curriculum and the updating of the PhD methods seminar in advance of the 2026-27 academic year. In response to reviewer concerns regarding faculty climate, the Department also held a three-hour mediated retreat for graduate faculty on September 5, 2025, led by a professional academic facilitator, which focused on the mission and goals of the unit and approaches to moving forward as a unified faculty. Faculty reported emerging from the retreat with a sense of shared principles and goals, signifying productive first steps towards restoring a climate of collegiality and cooperation in the Department.
- b. The IMS and GDipHR Directors agree that a separate review of the Graduate Diploma in Health Research should be conducted. The Temerty Dean's office has been consulting with the Office of the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs and IMS leadership on how best to undertake a focussed assessment of the GDipHR. While administrative understaffing

prevented consultations from occurring earlier, an internal assessment of the GDipHR will commence in Spring 2026. Its findings will be included in the Dean's Interim Monitoring Report for the review of IMS, which will be due to the Office of the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs in the 2026-27 academic year.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not applicable.

RECOMMENDATION:

For Information

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

- a. FAS Art History Follow-up Letter from Interim Dean Stephen Wright, dated February 9, 2026.
- b. MED Institute of Medical Science Follow-up Letter from Dean Lisa Robinson, dated February 24, 2026.



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCE

February 9, 2026

Professor Nick Rule
Vice-Provost, Academic Programs
University of Toronto

RE: One-Year Follow-up Report to UTQAP cyclical review of the Department of Art History

Dear Prof. Rule,

I write in response to your letter of June 27, 2025, requesting a one-year follow-up report to the February 28-29, 2024, UTQAP cyclical review of the Department of Art History and corresponding Administrative Response.

At its meeting on April 10, 2025, AP&P requested a one-year follow-up report on “the progress following the upcoming curriculum retreat(s) and mediated faculty retreat.” I am pleased to report that both retreats were held earlier this academic year, leading to multiple specific improvements and demonstrating the Department’s broader commitment to addressing recommendations resulting from the UTQAP cyclical review. As outlined in Dean’s Implementation Plan (item 1), the A&S Dean’s office offers financial support to academic units for faculty retreats designated for these purposes.

Responding to specific concerns around curriculum (as outlined in the Dean’s Implementation Plan, items 1, 2, 8, 9, 10), the Department held a five-hour faculty retreat on December 3, 2025, at the Chestnut Conference Centre to address, as a departmental priority, concerns around the graduate curriculum. The faculty subsequently adopted a set of revised policies regarding MA and PhD language requirements, comprehensive exams for the PhD, and dissertation proposals, issues that had previously been experienced as points of tension for the Department. Additionally, potential changes to the MA curriculum were discussed, particularly the possibilities of introducing a thesis option and a methods seminar requirement (as outlined in Dean’s Implementation Plan, items 9, 10). Faculty agreed that the current methods seminar for PhD students is due for an update, and the Department has committed to updating this course in advance of the 2026-27 academic year. These developments all point towards a promising path forward for the Department and the continued improvement of its graduate curriculum.

In response to reviewer concerns regarding faculty climate (as outlined in the Dean’s Implementation Plan, items 32, 33, 41, 42), the Department of Art History held a three-hour

mediated retreat for its graduate faculty on September 5, 2025, at the Art Gallery of Ontario. Led by a professional academic facilitator, the retreat began with remarks from the Dean, Graduate Studies and Vice-Provost, Graduate Research and Education, and the Acting Vice-Dean, Graduate Education, Faculty of Arts & Science. This was followed by three rounds of mediated small-group discussions concerning the mission and goals of the unit, as well as a general discussion concerning how to move forward as a unified faculty. Faculty reported emerging from the retreat with a sense of shared principles and goals, signifying productive first steps towards restoring a climate of collegiality and cooperation in the Department.

I will continue to monitor progress made on the Implementation Plan arising from this review and will be pleased to provide your office with further updates in the Interim Monitoring Report midway between the February 2024 UTQAP cyclical review and the year of the next site visit in the 2031-32 review cycle; we expect to write this report in the 2026-27 academic year.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide this one-year follow-up report on the tremendous progress made by the Department of Art History. The reviewers' comments and recommendations continue to help inform the future priorities of the Department of Art History and its undergraduate and graduate programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephen Wright". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephen Wright
Interim Dean, Faculty of Arts & Science
Professor, Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology

cc.

Joseph Clarke, Chair, Department of Art History, Faculty of Arts & Science
Adam Cohen, Graduate Chair, Department of Art History, Faculty of Arts & Science
Gillian Hamilton, Vice-Dean, Academic Planning, Faculty of Arts & Science
Ebba Kurz, Interim Associate Dean, Unit-Level Reviews, Faculty of Arts & Science
Lachmi Singh, Director, Academic Programs, Planning & Quality Assurance,
Office of the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs
Andrea Benoit, Academic Planning & Review Officer, Office of the Dean, Faculty of Arts and
Science



Lisa A. Robinson, MD FRCPC FASN FCAHS
Dean
Vice Provost, Relations with Health Care Institutions

February 24, 2026

Professor Nicholas Rule
Vice-Provost, Academic Programs
Division of the Vice-President & Provost

Dear Professor Rule,

1-YEAR FOLLOW-UP REPORT | Institute of Medical Science

On behalf of the Temerty Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto, I am pleased to provide the 1-year follow-up report that you requested for the UTQAP review of the Institute of Medical Science (IMS) in April 2024. Specifically, AP&P requested a 1-year follow-up report on the status of a separate review of the Graduate Diploma in Health Research (GDipHR) at its meeting on April 10, 2025, which had been a recommendation of the external reviewers.

Both the IMS and GDipHR Directors agree that a separate review should be conducted. My office has been consulting with your team and IMS leadership on how best to undertake a focussed assessment of the GDipHR.

While administrative understaffing prevented consultations from occurring earlier, an internal assessment of the GDipHR will commence this spring. Its findings will be included in the Dean's Interim Monitoring Report for IMS upon its request.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lisa A. Robinson
Dean, Temerty Faculty of Medicine
Vice Provost, Relations with Health Care Institutions

cc: Lisa Richardson – Vice Dean, Strategy & Governance
Lucy Osborne – Interim Director, Institute of Medical Science
Catharine Walsh – Director, Graduate Diploma in Health Research Program