

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

amended

THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

REPORT NUMBER 112 OF THE COMMITTEE ON

ACADEMIC POLICY AND PROGRAMS

January 12, 2005

To the Academic Board,  
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it held a meeting on Wednesday, January 12, 2005 at 4:10 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Simcoe Hall, at which the following were present:

Professor J. J. Berry Smith (In the Chair)  
Professor Cheryl Regehr, Vice-Chair  
Professor Edith Hillan, Vice-Provost,  
Academic  
Professor David Farrar, Deputy Provost and  
Vice-Provost, Students  
Professor Rona Abramovitch  
Professor Stewart Aitchison  
Professor Derek Allen  
Professor Mary Chipman  
Professor David Clandfield  
Professor Luc De Nil  
Dr. Inez N. Elliston  
Professor Pamela Catton

Professor Wayne K. Hindmarsh  
Professor Ronald H. Kluger  
Professor Barbara Sherwood Lollar  
Ms Vera Melnyk  
Mr. Stefan A. Neata  
Professor Robert Reisz  
Professor John Scherk  
Miss Maureen Somerville

Professor John Challis, Vice-President,  
Research and Associate Provost

**Secretariat:**

Mr. Neil Dobbs  
Mr. Andrew Drummond, Secretary

**Regrets:**

Ms Janice Bayani  
Ms Maple Chong  
Ms Leigh Honeywell

Mr. Senai Iman  
Mr. Raza M. Mirza  
Professor Dennis Thiessen

**In Attendance:**

Professor Brian Corman – member, the Governing Council, Chair, Department of English  
Professor Donald Ainslie, Chair Department of Philosophy  
Mr. George Altmeyer, Assistant Dean, Registrar and Faculty Secretary, Faculty of Arts and Science  
Professor Sandra Acker, Associate Dean, School of Graduate Studies  
Professor John Astington, Director, Graduate Centre for the Study of Drama  
Professor R. Roy Baker, Undergraduate Coordinator, Department of Biochemistry  
Professor Ragnar Buchweitz, Vice-Principal and Dean, University of Toronto at Scarborough  
Professor Umberto de Boni, Associate Dean, School of Graduate Studies  
Professor Karin Domnick, Graduate Coordinator, Department of Public Health Sciences  
Professor Diane Horton, Associate Chair, Undergraduate Studies, Department of Computer Science  
Professor Christina Kramer, Chair, Department of Slavic Languages and Literature  
Professor A. J. Lança, Undergraduate Coordinator, Pharmacology / Toxicology, Department of  
Pharmacology  
Professor Anne Lancashire, Vice-Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science

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**In Attendance (Cont'd)**

Ms. Helen Lasthiotakis, Director of Policy and Planning, Office of the Vice-President and Provost  
Professor Michael Luke, Interim Chair, Department of Physics  
Professor Cheryl Misak, Vice-Principal and Dean, University of Toronto at Mississauga  
Mr. Peter Munsche, Assistant Vice-President, Technology Transfer  
Professor Keren Rice, Coordinator, Aboriginal Studies Program  
Ms Lynn Snowden, Assistant Vice-Principal, Academic, University of Toronto at Mississauga  
Professor Paula Sperdakos, Graduate Coordinator, Graduate Centre for the Study of Drama  
Professor Boris Steipe, Department of Biochemistry  
Professor R. Paul Thompson, Director, Institute of History and Philosophy of Science and  
Technology  
Professor Catharine Whiteside, Associate Dean, InterFaculty and Graduate Affairs, Faculty of  
Medicine

ALL ITEMS ARE REPORTED FOR INFORMATION.

**1. Report of the Previous Meeting**

Report 111 of the meeting of December 8, 2004 was approved.

**2. Business Arising from the Report of the Previous Meeting**

There was no business arising.

**3. Faculty of Arts and Science, St. George Campus: Calendar Changes, 2005-2006**

The Chair welcomed the following guests to the meeting:

Professor Anne Lancashire, Vice-Dean and Chair of the Academic Standards  
Committee, Faculty of Arts and Science  
Mr. George Altmeyer, Faculty Secretary, Faculty of Arts and Science  
Professor Donald Ainslie - Department of Philosophy  
Professor Roy Baker - Department of Biochemistry  
Professor Brian Corman - Diaspora and Transnational Studies  
Professor Diane Horton – Department of Computer Science  
Professor Christina Kramer - Department of Slavic Languages and Literature  
Professor A. J. Lança - Department of Pharmacology  
Professor Michael Luke - Department of Physics  
Professor Keren Rice - Aboriginal Studies  
Professor Boris Steipe - Department of Biochemistry  
Professor Paul Thompson - Institute of History and Philosophy of Science and  
Technology  
Professor Catharine Whiteside - Faculty of Medicine

The Chair informed members that the approval of Calendar changes was an important annual function of the Committee. He noted that the proposed program in Diaspora and Transnational Studies would be considered under the Faculty of Arts and Science submission, even though it was proposed also by the University of Toronto at Scarborough and the University of Toronto at Mississauga.

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**3. Faculty of Arts and Science, St. George Campus: Calendar Changes, 2005-2006 (Cont'd)**

The Chair then invited Professor Hillan to introduce the Calendar changes as a whole and for the Arts and Science submission more specifically. Professor Hillan noted that the changes proposed were driven by five main considerations: consistently increasing enrolments, program reviews and implementation of their recommendations, the desire to seek interdisciplinarity where possible, recruitment of faculty, and student needs and demand. For the submission from the Faculty of Arts and Science, many of the changes were the addition of new major programs, which were important to create, especially given the small number of programs in the life sciences. The reasons for deleting programs were either reduced demand or program reorganization.

The Chair noted for the record that item 7.0 in the submission of the Faculty of Arts and Science (the Computer Science Specialist Program) had been **withdrawn**. The Chair further stated that he had received notice of two changes in item 4.0 (Department of Biochemistry: Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Specialist program): under 'Requirements', the text should read "16.5 full courses or their equivalent" (instead of "17 full courses ...") and the requirements for the first year should add "one half-year course in writing".

During discussion of the Bioinformatics proposal, a member questioned why MAT135Y was an option rather than a mandatory course. Professor Horton responded that there was little room for any courses except required ones, but that the Calendar would include a notation that the program would require the development of considerable mathematical skill.

A member noted that CHM 151Y was not a service course, but rather, was designed for Chemistry specialists expected to follow up, whereas CHM 138H led into CHM 247H naturally and might be more appropriate as a course. Professor Horton undertook to follow up with the undergraduate coordinator in the Department of Chemistry.

A member noted that the requirements were very strict, and that students might have a very difficult time completing them; in particular, he expressed the opinion that there was very little humanities and social sciences content in the Bioinformatics proposal. Professor Steipe responded that changes to the program would compromise the quality of the proposed program, and that, during the program's development, it was understood to be an exceptionally rigorous one that would not enable mobility in or out of the program easily.

Members then discussed the Biochemistry major program, and questioned whether the entrance average of 2.5 was appropriate and whether it would result in the targeted enrolment of 50. Professor Steipe responded that the average entrance grade would likely attract more applicants than spots, but that 2.5 represented an adequate level of performance to predict success. The Chair noted that the introduction of new majors was welcome, and that in his opinion, the approach represented a good compromise for the time being.

Members then discussed the new major in the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology. A member pointed out that the text should read (under item 1.0, 'Academic Relevance'), "Although the program requires the maximum number of courses required for a major (7)...", instead of "... major (8)." The text was **amended** to reflect the change.

A member then stated that, in his opinion, the proposed major program did not sufficiently study the hard sciences or mathematics. In response, Professor Thompson noted that the program was in History and Philosophy, not in the sciences, and that students were encouraged to study the sciences in the context of their program.

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**3. Faculty of Arts and Science, St. George Campus: Calendar Changes, 2005-2006 (Cont'd)**

A member then asked how many faculty members were in Aboriginal Studies (item 3.0). Professor Rice responded that the total number of faculty added up to four in the field, with considerable support from other departments in related fields.

A member then asked if the program in Diaspora and Transnational Studies would expand to include a Specialist program over time. Professor Corman responded in the negative, noting that double major programs would be more appropriate, and that numerous good 'pairings' had been contemplated.

On motion duly moved and seconded,

YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED

the new specialist, major and minor programs, and program changes and deletions, as described in the submission from the Faculty of Arts and Science, St. George Campus, dated December 17, 2004, effective for the academic year 2005-2006, **as amended.**

**4. University of Toronto at Mississauga: Calendar Changes 2005-2006, Effective September 2005**

The Chair welcomed Professor Cheryl Misak, Vice-Principal and Dean, University of Toronto at Mississauga (UTM), to the meeting.

During discussion, a member asked about item 2 in the submission from UTM concerning the Health Sciences Communications Specialist program, and specifically whether it was enabled by newly hired faculty members or used current faculty. Professor Misak responded that there was already a graduate component for biomedical communications, but that the proposed program was a new undergraduate program that constituted 'new territory' for UTM.

A member suggested, and Professor Misak agreed, that under 'Program Requirements' for item 2, the bullet currently reading "minimum annual Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) between 2.70 and 3.00 and never lower than 2.20." should be **amended** to read "... (CGPA) of 2.20."

On motion duly moved and seconded,

YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED

the new specialist, major and minor programs, and program changes, as described in the submission from the University of Toronto at Mississauga, dated December 7, 2004, effective May 2005 for the academic year 2005-2006, **as amended.**

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**5. University of Toronto at Scarborough: Calendar Changes 2005-2006, Effective May 2005**

The Chair welcomed Professor Ragnar Buchweitz, Vice-Principal and Dean, University of Toronto at Scarborough, to the meeting. There was no discussion.

On motion duly moved and seconded,

YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED

the new specialist, major and minor programs, and program changes, as described in the submission from the University of Toronto at Scarborough, dated December 7, 2004, effective May 2005 for the academic year 2005-2006.

**6. University of Toronto at Scarborough: Proposed Changes to Rules Governing Overall Standing and Change to Rules Governing Type Of Degree, Effective May 2005**

Professor Ragnar Buchweitz remained in the meeting room. Following an introduction to the item by Professor Hillan, members requested clarification of the proposal. Professor Buchweitz noted that current regulations were illogical, in that if students completed a double major in an Arts discipline and a Science discipline, the student could choose whether to receive a B.A. or a B.Sc. If a student took the same courses, but a major in Science and two minors in an Arts discipline, the student was required to graduate with a B.A. The second change was to introduce a more tiered suspension system in order to allow it to fit better with UTSC's trimester system.

Members questioned the success rate of students who were on probation following their return from suspension. Professor Buchweitz noted that although there were numerous resources for students to draw upon, very often students in such situations were not able to finish their degrees.

On motion duly moved and seconded,

YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED

the changes to rules governing overall standing, as outlined in the letter from the University of Toronto at Scarborough dated December 14, 2004, effective May 2005.

and

the change to the rules governing the awarding of B.A. and B.Sc. degree designation at UTSC, as outlined in the letter from the University of Toronto at Scarborough, dated December 14, 2004, effective May 2005.

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**7. School of Graduate Studies: Proposal of the Department of Public Health Sciences to Raise the Minimum Admission Requirement for the Ph.D. Program in Community Health from a B+ to an A-, For Inclusion in the School of Graduate Studies Calendar On A Permanent Basis, Effective September 2005**

The Chair welcomed Professor Umberto de Boni, and Professor Sandra Acker, Associate Deans, School of Graduate Studies, as well as Professor Karin Domnick, Department of Public Health Sciences, to the meeting.

A member asked if the revised admission requirement would exclude students with special circumstances who would be able to succeed despite presenting inadequate grades on their application for admission. Professor Domnick responded that the program would consider special cases but only those with compelling circumstances when the inadequate grades were not recent ones.

On motion duly moved and seconded,

YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED

THAT the Department of Public Health Sciences raise the minimum admission requirement for the Ph.D. Program in Community Health from a B+ to an A-, for inclusion in the School of Graduate Studies calendar on a permanent basis, effective September 2005.

**8. School of Graduate Studies Program Changes in the Doctoral Program of the Graduate Centre for the Study of Drama, Effective September 2005**

The Chair welcomed Professor John Astington, Director, Graduate Centre for the Study of Drama and Professor Paula Sperdakos, Graduate Co-ordinator, Graduate Centre for the Study of Drama to the meeting. Professor Umberto de Boni, and Professor Sandra Acker, Associate Deans, School of Graduate Studies, remained present.

During discussion, members questioned whether a result of the proposal to maintain an overall standing of A- would lead to grade inflation, or whether the program would shrink as a result of the change. In addition, members asked if anomalous performances in a single class would be dealt with in a manner that would not automatically force a student out of the program. Professor Sperdakos responded that, in her opinion, grade inflation would not result because of the high quality of students the program attracted.

Members noted for the record their concern that the change may result in grade inflation and instructed Professor Sperdakos to monitor grades in the program closely.

On motion duly moved and seconded,

YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED

THAT the School of Graduate Studies change the doctoral program requirements of the Graduate Centre for the Study of Drama, as outlined in the letter dated November 26, 2004, effective September 2005.

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**9. Vice-President, Research and Associate Provost: Overhead Rate Schedule**

The Chair welcomed Dr. Peter Munsche, Assistant Vice-President, Technology Transfer, to the meeting. Professor Challis noted that the normal overhead rate for research was, by and large, insufficient and that the University had determined as a matter of policy that the rate should ideally be a minimum of 40%. Anything less than that rate constituted, in effect, a subsidy for individual research projects from the University's (already strained) operating budget. To that end, overhead rates charged on industrial and government department grants would be increasing by 5% per year until the 40% rate was reached.

During discussion, members received assurances that the Office of the Vice-President, Research would assist researchers in the transition to the new model of overhead recovery. Members also recommended that Professor Challis and his staff 'sell' the model by making clear what kinds of increased assistance they would receive.

**10. Items for Information**

The following items were reported for information:

- (a) School of Graduate Studies: Proposal for the name change of the Graduate Program in Germanic Languages and Literatures to the *Graduate Program in Germanic Literature, Culture and Theory*, effective September 2005
- (b) School of Graduate Studies: Proposal of the Department of Public Health Sciences to change the name of the Graduate Program of Community Health to the *Graduate Program of Public Health Sciences*, effective September 2005.
- (c) School of Graduate Studies: Notice of name change for the "School and Child-Clinical Psychology Program" to the "School and Clinical Child Psychology Program"
- (d) School of Graduate Studies: Proposal of the Faculty of Social Work to add AGE 2000H – Principles of Aging as required course in the Social Work in Gerontology Specialization of the Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) program, for inclusion in the School of Graduate Studies calendar on a permanent basis, effective September 2005
- (e) School of Graduate Studies: Proposal of the Department of Theory and Policy Studies in Education for a Coursework-Only Option for the M.Ed. in the History and Philosophy of Education Program, for inclusion in the School of Graduate Studies calendar on a permanent basis, effective September 2005
- (f) School of Graduate Studies: Proposal of the Department of Theory and Policy Studies in Education for a Coursework-Only Option for the M.Ed. in the Educational Administration Program, for inclusion in the School of Graduate Studies calendar on a permanent basis, effective September 2005
- (g) School of Graduate Studies: Proposal of the Department of Adult Education and Counseling Psychology for a Coursework-Only Option for the M.Ed. in the Adult Education and Community Development Program, for inclusion in the School of Graduate Studies calendar on a permanent basis, effective September 2005

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**10. Items for Information (Cont'd)**

- (h) School of Graduate Studies: Proposal of the Faculty of Music to change the course requirements in the Instrumental/Vocal and Opera Options in the Master of Music in Performance Program, effective September 2005.
- (i) School of Graduate Studies: Proposal of the Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation and the Faculty of Nursing for a Combined M.N./M.H.Sc. (Health Administration) Program, for inclusion in the School of Graduate Studies calendar on a permanent basis, effective September 2005
- (j) School of Graduate Studies: Proposal of the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences for a Flexible-Time Ph.D. Program Option, for inclusion in the School of Graduate Studies calendar on a permanent basis, effective September 2005.

There was no discussion.

**11. Reports of the Administrative Assessors**

There were no reports from the Administrative Assessors.

**12. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting was scheduled for February 2, 2005.

**13. Other Business**

The Chair asked members to consider a suggestion that, in the future, the Committee delegate its authority to approve changes to admission requirements for graduate programs, such as the one described in item 7 (above). In his view, the changes were routine and there was little value added to the Committee's work by proceeding with Committee approval for each individual change. Some members thought that changes to admission requirements were serious and not a minor issue that would be appropriate to delegate. The Chair withdrew his suggestion.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

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Secretary

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Chair

February 11, 2005