

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL
REPORT NUMBER 79 OF THE COMMITTEE ON
ACADEMIC POLICY AND PROGRAMS

May 3, 2000

To the Academic Board,
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it held a meeting on Wednesday, May 3, 2000 at 4:10 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Simcoe Hall, at which the following were present:

Professor Wendy Rolph (In the Chair)
Professor Ruth Gallop (Vice-Chair)
Professor Carolyn Tuohy, Deputy Provost
Professor David Cook, Vice-Provost
Professor Derek Allen
Dr. Claire Alleyne
Professor Clare Beghtol
Professor Philip Byer
Professor Francois Casas
Professor Carl Corter
Ms Joy Fitzgibbon
Professor Hugh Gunz
Professor Angela Lange

Professor Ian McDonald
Professor J.J. Berry Smith

Non-Voting Assessors:

Professor Ian Orchard, Vice-Provost,
Students
Ms Karel Swift, University Registrar

Secretariat:

Ms Susan Girard

Regrets:

Ms Rakhi Bhavnani
Mr. Eric Brock
Professor Rorke Bryan
Ms Debbie Chachra
Professor Raisa Deber

Mr. Michael Derzko
Professor Gerald Goldenberg
Mr. David Kaplan
Professor Gretchen Kerr
Professor Emmet Robbins

In Attendance:

Professor Carl Amrhein, Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science
Mr. Louis Charpentier, Secretary of the Governing Council
Professor Cecil Houston, University of Toronto at Mississauga
Principal Robert McNutt, University of Toronto at Mississauga
Professor Catharine Whiteside, Associate Dean of Interfaculty and Graduate Affairs,
Faculty of Medicine

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ITEM 4(b) IS RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL. ALL OTHER ITEMS ARE REPORTED FOR INFORMATION.

1. Time of Adjournment

On motion duly moved and seconded,

It was agreed

THAT the meeting adjourn no later than 6 p.m.

2. Report of the Previous Meeting

A member recalled that he had asked a question at the last meeting which had not been reported in the discussion of the elimination of the 15-credit degrees in the Faculty of Arts and Science. The Chair invited him to repeat his question and have it and the response recorded at this meeting. The member noted that the enrolment plans for the St. George campus called for an increase in enrolment between 11 and 14 percent. The elimination of the 15-credit degrees would contribute about 1500 FTE to the expansion and would be the only source of enrolment expansion in the first-entry programs on St. George. He asked whether the administration was concerned that the provincial government might not fund this type of enrolment expansion, due largely to students staying longer in programs rather than new enrolment. Professor Tuohy responded that the provincial government would have to make a fundamental change to the funding formula in order not to provide the University with operating grant funding for those students. The University currently received funding for all students that fell within its funding corridor. The provincial government would also be penalizing the University for an academic decision it had made and the administration believed the government would be reluctant to intrude on University autonomy.

Report Number 78 of the meeting of February 23, 2000, was approved.

**3. Faculty of Arts and Science (St. George Campus): Proposed Calendar Changes
2000-2001 - Programs in Human Biology**

The Chair indicated that unless there were any objections, she would remain in the chair for this item. There were none. She welcomed the guests for this item, Dean Amrhein and Professor Whiteside, and noted that the director of the program was a member of the Committee, Professor Berry Smith.

Professor Tuohy reminded members that this part of the Faculty's proposed calendar changes had been deferred from the discussions at the February meeting to allow for further consultations with the Faculty of Medicine. The changes arising from the consultations were modest, and were described in the covering letter from the Director of the Human Biology Program. The proposed revisions have strengthened the program and its structure. The programs were offered by the Faculty of Arts and Science with strong participation from the Faculty of Medicine. There were three specialist streams in the program - Human Behavioural Biology; Genetics, Genes and Biotechnology; and Health and Disease - plus a Life Science Major program.

A member noted the plan to reduce enrolment in the program and he asked for clarification. Professor Smith indicated that there were currently between 300 and 350 students

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**3. Faculty of Arts and Science (St. George Campus): Proposed Calendar Changes
2000-2001 - Programs in Human Biology** (cont'd)

in the specialist programs. In order to provide a better educational experience, it was proposed that 60 students be accommodated in each stream. Allowing for some flexibility, Professor Smith suggested that enrolment might range between 180 and less than 300 students.

A member asked why calculus was a required course for certain streams. Professor Smith noted the problem of choosing four science courses as prerequisites when there were many science disciplines from which to choose. Calculus was needed for some courses in the Faculty of Medicine which were part of certain streams within the program.

A member noted some courses in the biotechnology and environmental science areas and asked about participation of other faculties such as the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering. Dean Amrhein said that he would welcome the Faculty's participation in teaching courses to Arts and Science students.

On motion duly moved and seconded,

YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED

The revised proposal for the re-organization of programs in Human Biology, as described in the submission from the Director of Human Biology dated April 25, 2000, effective for the academic year 2000-2001.

**4. Faculty of Arts and Science (University of Toronto at Mississauga): Proposed
Calendar Changes 2000-2001**

The Chair welcomed Principal Robert McNutt and Professor Cecil Houston to the meeting and invited Professor Tuohy to introduce the proposals.

(a) Major and Specialist Programs in European Studies

Professor Tuohy said that this interdisciplinary program was similar to that offered on the St. George Campus except that a Spanish and Portuguese option was not offered at Mississauga.

A member indicated his support for the program and asked whether there were any opportunities for students to use and/or study other languages outside the specific courses in those languages. It was noted that students with appropriate linguistic competence could use bibliographic source material in other languages. Dean Amrhein suggested, too, that there might be language opportunities in the course series 299, Research Opportunity Program, and 399, the Independent Experiential Study Program.

On motion duly moved and seconded,

YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED

The proposal for the Major and Specialist programs in European Studies, as described in the Faculty of Arts and Science (University of Toronto at Mississauga) submission dated April 13, 2000, effective for the academic year 2000-2001.

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**4. Faculty of Arts and Science (University of Toronto at Mississauga): Proposed
Calendar Changes 2000-2001** (cont'd)

- (b) Major Honours Program in Communication, Culture and Information Technology, jointly with Sheridan College

Professor Tuohy expressed her pleasure in introducing this innovative and unusual program proposal. The program had been highlighted as a niche program in the *Framework for Enrolment Expansion* document and as the basis for a large part of the proposed enrolment expansion at Mississauga. The program would be offered in collaboration with Sheridan College, whose expertise, international partnerships and high profile in the new digital media were well recognized here and abroad. The enrolment, faculty, facilities and resources in the program would be split 60 percent UTM and 40 percent Sheridan College. At least 50 percent of the FTE enrolment in new CCIT courses would be taught by UTM faculty. Professor Tuohy indicated that the approval process for the program was expected to be attenuated but academic approval of the program was necessary to begin seeking government funding. Because of the negotiations required to ensure appropriate funding for the program, it was not expected that the program would be considered by the Planning and Budget Committee or the Academic Board this academic session.

Several members asked about the role of Sheridan College, whether the College had parallel programs to UTM, and how the proposed program would benefit each partner. Professor Houston and Principal McNutt responded to the questions. Students would be enrolled at UTM and graduate with an honours diploma from the University of Toronto. UTM already participated in two long standing programs with Sheridan College in Art and Art History, established in 1972, and Drama and Theatre Studies, established in 1992. All students would be at UTM but the program would be operated jointly. Sheridan College would provide expertise and outstanding facilities. Sheridan College faculty would have the opportunity to get involved in research in these areas. Courses would be approved by UTM. Both Professor Houston and Principal McNutt had no hesitation in saying that the program would be viable.

On motion duly moved and seconded,

YOUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS

THAT the proposal for a Major Honours program in Communication, Culture and Information Technology, to be offered jointly by the University of Toronto at Mississauga and Sheridan College, as described in the Faculty of Arts and Science (University of Toronto at Mississauga) submission dated April 13, 2000, be approved, effective on the date to be determined upon the securing of the required resources.

5. Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering: Diploma Program in Professional Pilot and Aviation Management - Establishment

The Chair recalled that the Committee had considered this one item of business for the proposed March 28 meeting by mail. The meeting of the Committee was subsequently cancelled. The proposal was supported by the members with no dissenting votes. In order to record the approval, the Chair read the following motion into the Report.

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5. Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering: Diploma Program in Professional Pilot and Aviation Management - Establishment (cont'd)

On motion duly moved and seconded,

YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED

The proposal for a Diploma Program in Professional Pilot and Aviation Management, as described in the submission from the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering, dated March 2000, subject to a review of resource implications.

The Chair reported that the Planning and Budget Committee had received a memorandum concerning the resource implications of this program at its last meeting. Since the program was self-funding, there were no resource implications for the University's operating budget and the Faculty was responsible for any program budget deficits.

6. Student Financial Support: 1999-2000 Interim Report of the Vice-Provost, Students

Professor Orchard gave a "powerpoint" presentation of the Report; a paper copy of the presentation is attached hereto as Appendix "A".

Professor Orchard noted that this was the second report the Committee had received on student financial support. It was an interim one, with the regular annual report expected in November. This report focused on the student financial support implemented in response to the University's Policy on Student Financial Support and the guarantee therein that "no student offered admission to a program at the U of T should be unable to enter or complete the program due to lack of financial means." He explained the various programs of support, including those for part-time students and those with special financial needs, and the income-sensitive loan remission program. He referred to the Report of the Task Force on Graduate Student Financial Support (Task Force Report), soon to be released, and shared data from that report on graduate student support. During his presentation, he highlighted the following points:

- University of Toronto Advance Planning for Students (UTAPS) funding had grown from about \$1 million in 1996-97 to over \$8 million in 1999-2000
- total funding distributed to students for financial support in 1999-2000 was in excess of \$60 million
- approximately \$300,000 has been provided as overhead for funding financial counselling which was available in colleges, faculties, and Admissions and Awards, and through a web site, a brochure and a guide for parents
- surveys were undertaken to monitor access and the effects of rising tuition fees, comparing upper-year to first-year students
- in professional faculties, the percentage of "non-European" students in first year was increasing substantially (46 percent in first year in 1998 and an estimated 52 percent this year compared to 37 percent in upper years in the 1998 survey)
- percentage of professional faculties students whose parental income was below \$30,000 was 18 percent for first year in 1998 and an estimated 22 percent in 1999 compared to 15 percent for upper years in 1998

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**6. Student Financial Support: 1999-2000 Interim Report of the Vice-Provost,
Students cont'd)**

- debt load for students in professional faculties was being tracked; the data showed that over 35 percent of the students with debt had a debt level of between \$10,000 - \$20,000
- over 83 percent of first-year students responded that the sources of financial support were sufficient to meet their needs, the number for upper-year students was 82.6 percent
- 58 percent of first-year students applied for OSAP in 1998, compared to 60 percent of upper year students
- the recent provincial budget doubled funding for the Ontario work study plan, increased exemptions within OSAP for the study period employment from \$600 to \$1700, increased exemptions within OSAP for scholarships from \$600 to \$3,500, and increased the number of OGS awards by 50 percent and the value of each award from \$11,800 to \$15,000.

In summary, the results of the survey indicated that rising tuition fees did not appear to be affecting access because the financial aid programs were visible and transparent and prospective students knew exactly what they could expect in the way of financial support. Professor Orchard thanked Ms Karel Swift for the tremendous effort she has put into ensuring that the University has one of the best programs in Canada.

A member noted that 1375 FTE OISE/UT graduate students received just over \$4 million in student funding. Professor Orchard said that OISE/UT students had been severely underfunded before the merger and that the Provost had been moving to increase funding in this division. Part of the strategy was to move to a minimum support level of \$17,000 per doctoral student as outlined in the Task Force Report. Professor Orchard explained that the shortfall in funding did not include the EdD program which was defined as a professional program.

A member noted that Professor Orchard's report was impressive. He could not, however, determine whether the differences in findings for first and upper-year students represented trends. Ms Swift indicated that prior to the policy there had been no surveys. This was only the second one and, without a longer period to collect and assess data, it was difficult to draw specific conclusions.

A member said that beginning in 1999-2000, there should be a difference in the debt load with the larger fee increases in the deregulated programs. Professor Orchard indicated that the survey just completed had been performed using students in deregulated professional programs (Dentistry, Law, Management, Medicine and Pharmacy). It was important to have a sequence of surveys in order to track data. This survey was important because of the increasing fees. The member was also concerned about the high debt loads. Professor Orchard responded that 50 percent of the first-entry students had no OSAP debt. For those who had OSAP debt, the average amount was \$16,000. The member referred to the tables reporting income by source of financial support and noted that almost 60 percent of first-year professional faculties students who had bank loans reported loans of \$9,000 or more. He suggested that the number as a percentage of all students might be more informative than just the percentage of the small number of those with bank loans. Professor Orchard agreed and noted that for the November report, further analyses and comparisons needed to be done. The member congratulated Professor Orchard on his excellent report.

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**6. Student Financial Support: 1999-2000 Interim Report of the Vice-Provost,
Students** cont'd)

A member suggested that the fees policies created the need for financial support and she asked where such matters as continuity of registration for graduate students could be reviewed. Professor Orchard indicated that there was some discussion of these matters in the Task Force Report and that relevant issues were under review by the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies.

A member noted that 83 percent of those surveyed said that the sources of financial support were sufficient to meet their needs. He asked about the expectations of the other 17 percent. Ms Swift responded that not all students were relying on OSAP for support. Some do not apply because they do not meet the need criteria. Some students rely on loans from their families. She agreed that this question needed more analysis. Another member suggested that their satisfaction with the financial support might depend on the way the question was asked, particularly with respect to short-term versus long-term results. Students could be happy now but might be less so in a few years when large debts had accumulated. He cautioned against reading too much into that response.

A member referred to the minimum of \$17,000 planned annual support for doctoral students for each of four years. He asked whether this varied for marital status or visa students, for example. Professor Orchard noted that this was again a recommendation from the Task Force Report. It was based on \$12,000 plus tuition which, for visa students, would take into account the higher fees paid by them. The amount should be viewed as a minimum, not a ceiling. It was his expectation that some departments would be able to design support programs that would provide more than the minimum. Indeed, some departments were already supporting students at the recommended minimum level.

The Chair thanked Professor Orchard for his report and suggested that the members were looking forward to the November report.

**7. Report on student Awards Established, Amended and Withdrawn: July 1, 1998 to
June 30, 1999**

Ms Swift said that the report was presented annually to the Committee. The OSOTF program had had a very positive effect on awards giving at the University; she was pleased to note that the annual level of new awards had increased over the level of awards established annually before OSOTF.

A member asked the total value of withdrawn awards. Ms Swift undertook to provide that number for the next meeting.

A member noted that some awards were not supported by endowments. Ms Swift explained that some awards were given annually or a donor could give an amount that could provide an annual award for a number of years. The endowed funds were part of the Consolidated Investment Pool. In response to a question, she noted that the OGSST awards would be part of the 1999-2000 report.

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8. Reports of the Administrative Assessors

(a) Provincial Budget

Professor Tuohy said that there was good news in the provincial budget, released on May 2. The province had invested in research and student aid. A base allocation of \$30 million for the indirect cost of research had been announced: all provincially funded research would attract 40 percent overhead costs. This decision was intended, to some extent, as a signal to the federal government that federally-funded research should be supported in a similar fashion.

In response to a question about the University's reaction to the announcement about private universities, Professor Tuohy recalled that at the time of the Smith Commission Report, and in giving advice about ministerial consents, the University's position on private universities had been that there must be stringent quality assessments, no public subsidies and no OSAP-related "ripoffs."

(b) Compliance with the Policy on Diploma and Certificate Programs

A member recalled that in the agenda package of the March 28 meeting that was not held was a "for information" item about diploma programs in the Faculty of Music. Both the Artist Diploma and the Diploma in Operatic Performance did not require an undergraduate degree for admission. The Dean had asked that the titles remain unchanged. The member was concerned that despite the new policy, there would remain a significant difference in what a diploma program entailed. Professor Tuohy explained that the policy allowed for "grandfathering" the name even though it did not fit the definition in the policy, if the old name was well established and fit in with common use in a given professional field. She noted that the Faculty of Medicine was currently considering changing the name of some of its programs to align with the policy, to convert current certificate programs to diploma status.

Professor Cook, Ms Swift and Professor Orchard had nothing further to report.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The Chair noted that there would be an additional meeting of the Committee to be held on May 24, 2000, beginning at 3:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Secretary

Chair

May 5, 2000