

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

**REPORT NUMBER 157 OF THE COMMITTEE ON
ACADEMIC POLICY AND PROGRAMS**

September 19, 2012

To the Academic Board,
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it met on Wednesday, September 19, 2012 at 4:10 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Simcoe Hall, with the following present:

Professor Douglas McDougall (Chair)
Professor Elizabeth Peter (Vice-Chair)
Professor Cheryl Regehr, Vice-Provost,
Academic Programs
Professor Brian Corman, Vice-Provost,
Graduate Education and Dean,
School of Graduate Studies
Professor Karen D. Davis
Professor Joseph Desloges
Mr. Michael Dick
Mr. Aidan Fishman
Mr. Omar Gamel
Professor Rick Halpern
Professor Paul Kingston
Mr. David Kleinman

Professor Emmanuel Nikiema
Professor Janet Paterson
Professor Russell Pysklywec
Ms Judith C. Poë
Ms Ioana Sendroiu
Ms Maureen Somerville
Professor Suzanne Stevenson
Ms Tisha Tan
Professor Steven Thorpe
Dr. Sarita Verma
Professor Sandy Welsh

Secretariat:
Ms Cristina Oke
Ms Mae-Yu Tan

Regrets:

Professor Zhong-Ping Feng
Ms Michelle Mitrovich

Dr. Graeme Norval

In Attendance:

Professor Cristina Amon, Dean, Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering
Dr. Jane E. Harrison, Director, Academic Programs and Policy, Office of the
Vice-President and Provost
Dr. Daniella Mallinck, Coordinator, Academic Programs and Policy, Office of the
Vice-President and Provost
Professor Brenda McCabe, Chair, Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Applied
Science and Engineering

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ITEM 2 CONTAINS A RECOMMENDATION TO THE ACADEMIC BOARD. ALL OTHER ITEMS ARE REPORTED FOR INFORMATION.

1. Welcome and Orientation

The Chair welcomed members and guests to the first meeting of the Committee for the 2012-2013 governance year. Following the introduction of Committee members and staff, the Chair provided an overview of the Committee's role within University governance and outlined the responsibilities of members.

2. Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering: Master of Engineering in Cities Engineering and Management

The Chair informed members that the Committee was responsible for reviewing proposals for new graduate degrees. If recommended by the Committee, the proposal for a new Master of Engineering in Cities Engineering and Management (M.Eng.C.E.M.) degree would be forwarded to the Academic Board for its consideration. Professor Regehr noted that if approved by the Academic Board and confirmed by the Executive Committee of the Governing Council, the proposal would then be reviewed by the Quality Council of Ontario, and then by the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU). A number of stages would need to be passed before the first cohort of students could be accepted into the program.

Professor Regehr introduced the proposal for a professional master's program that would be housed in the Department of Civil Engineering within the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering. The sixteen-month, full-time program consisted of three components - infrastructure-related engineering courses focusing on evidence-based decision making, courses related to complex systems in cities and a practicum that would provide an integrative platform for students. Practitioners and researchers from across the University, industry and government had been consulted during the development of the proposal and the Department was confident that future graduates would be in high demand from employers.

Among the matters that arose during the discussion were the following.

a) Competitiveness of the Proposed Program

In response to questions, Professor Cristina Amon, Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering, stated that although some similar programs could be found elsewhere in the world, the proposed program would be unique in Canada. State-of-the-art research programs and resources available within the Faculty would contribute to an outstanding experience for students. Professor Brenda McCabe, Chair of the Department of Civil Engineering, noted that the proposed degree name, M.Eng.C.E.M. identified both the common Master of Engineering component of the program, as well as the unique focus on application to cities, denoted by the "C.E.M." portion of the name. The Faculty hoped that the program would attract students from around the world.

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2. Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering: Master of Engineering in Cities Engineering and Management (cont'd)

b) Practicum Component

Professor Amon said that, in addition to individual topics, collaborative activities proposed by students for their practica would also be considered. It was anticipated that in addition to civil engineering students, those from other engineering disciplines would also be recruited to the program. As well, students could work with a partner institution on a group project in order to address a particular city problem. It was clear that there was a significant market for graduates with a specialization such as that offered through the proposed program. Professor Amon noted that most applicants would likely have an engineering or science background.

c) Consulation and Collaboration within the University

A member expressed surprise that the Centre for Urban and Community Studies had not been consulted during the development of the proposal. Professor McCabe acknowledged that the Centre had been inadvertently overlooked during the consultation process. However, a number of other academic units within the University, such as the School of Public Policy and Governance and the Munk School of Global Affairs, had been consulted. Participation by other units within the University would be welcome and collaboration would be ongoing.

On motion duly made, seconded and carried,

YOUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS

THAT the proposed Master of Engineering in Cities Engineering and Management (M.Eng.C.E.M.), as described in the proposal from the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering dated August 2, 2012, a copy of which is attached hereto as Appendix "A", be approved effective for the academic year 2013-14.

3. Reviews of Academic Programs and Units: Committee Process

The Chair provided an overview of the process to be undertaken by the Committee as it considered the reviews of academic programs and units at its subsequent meeting. The review of reviews was one of the significant roles of the Committee and its responsibility was to ensure that the Office of the Vice-President and Provost was managing the review process well.

During the discussion of the review process, a member suggested that it might not be feasible for the Committee to review all 17 reviews at the next meeting, even though reading teams would be assigned subsets of reviews to review. Professor Regehr stated that reviews were considered by the Committee semi-annually – in the fall and the spring. In response to a suggestion, the Chair agreed that instructions would be sent asking reading teams to notify the Chair or the Secretary in advance of the October 29, 2012 meeting if they identified any problematic reviews.

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3. Reviews of Academic Programs and Units: Committee Process (cont'd)

In that way, steps could be taken to focus on those reviews at the meeting, with less time spent on more routine reviews. Other suggestions were made to identify members with previous experience in reviewing the reviews and to communicate to them the expectation that they serve as team leaders. A member thanked Professor Regehr and her team for the excellent work they did in preparing the comprehensive summaries of the reviews.

4. Calendar of Business, 2012-13

The Committee's 2012-2013 Calendar of Business was presented for information.

5) Reports of the Administrative Assessors

Professor Regehr brought to the Committee's attention a discussion paper that had been released by the MTCU early in the summer entitled *Strengthening Ontario's Centres of Creativity, Innovation and Knowledge*.¹ The release had been followed by a series of MTCU consultation sessions held across the Province of Ontario with various stakeholders. Most recently, a consultation session with student leaders had been held at the University of Toronto's Chestnut Street Residence. Professor Regehr highlighted the key elements of the paper, which included the following points.

- Developing revitalized, labour-market-focused three-year degrees.
- Making 100 per cent of first- and second-year introductory, general education, and core courses fully recognized across institutions.
- Offering year-round learning options in order to increase choice and allow students to earn their credentials sooner, possibly resulting in decreased post-secondary education-related costs.
- Implementing more widespread use of the Collegiate Learning Assessment or other similar assessment tools to measure the achievement of desired learning outcomes and skills.
- Revamping the vision for the Ontario Online Institute to provide Ontario students with online degree and diploma options.

Professor Regehr stated that consultations would continue, including a session that would be held by the University of Toronto Students' Union on September 25, 2012. Professor Cheryl Misak, the University's Vice-President and Provost would be a panellist at that event. In closing, Professor Regehr encouraged members to familiarize themselves with the discussion paper and consider the impact it might have on programs at the University.

¹ <http://www.tcu.gov.on.ca/eng>

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CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly moved, seconded, and carried

YOUR BOARD APPROVED

THAT the consent agenda be adopted.

6. Report of the Previous Meeting: Report Number 156 – May 15, 2012

The Chair noted that the Report of the Previous Meeting would be corrected to indicate that Professor Elizabeth Peter had been present. The corrected Report Number 156 of the meeting held on May 15, 2012 was approved.

7. Business Arising from the Report of the Previous Meeting

There was no business arising from Report Number 156.

8. Report on Approvals Under Summer Executive Authority, 2012

There were no approvals under Summer Executive Authority.

9) Date of Next Meeting – Monday, October 29, 2012 at 4:10 p.m.

10) Other Business

No items of other business were raised.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Secretary

Chair

October 1, 2012