

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL
REPORT NUMBER 91 OF THE COMMITTEE ON
ACADEMIC POLICY AND PROGRAMS

December 5, 2001

To the Academic Board,
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it held a meeting on Wednesday, December 5, 2001 at 4:10 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Simcoe Hall, at which the following were present:

Professor Ruth Gallop (In the Chair)
Professor Kumar Murty (Vice-Chair)
Professor Vivek Goel, Vice-Provost,
Faculty
Mr. Adam Chapnick
Professor Frank Cunningham
Professor James Donaldson
Dr. Inez Elliston
Professor Lynne C. Howarth
Professor Annelise Jorgensen
Ms Vera Melnyk
Professor C. Regehr
Ms Heather Schramm

Professor Arthur Sheps
Professor J. J. Berry Smith

Non-Voting Assessors:

Professor Heather Munroe-Blum, Vice-
President, Research and International
Relations

Secretariat:

Ms Susan Girard
Ms Cristina Oke, Secretary

Regrets:

Ms Rakhi Bhavnani
Professor Mary Chipman
Professor Sherwin Desser
Professor Luigi Girolametto
Professor David Jenkins

Professor Robert Reisz
Professor Keren Rice
Mr. Janakan Satkunasingham
Ms Catherine Seymour
Professor Carolyn Tuohy
Mr. Arnon Vered

In Attendance:

Ms Judith Chadwick, Associate Director, Government Research Infrastructure Programs (GRIP) and Director, Connaught Programs
Professor Lisa Cicutto, Program Director, Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program – Adults, Faculty of Nursing
Professor Umberto de Boni, Associate Dean, Division IV, School of Graduate Studies
Professor Bernard Katz, Associate Dean, Division I, School of Graduate Studies
Professor Mary McAllister, Program Director, Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program – Children, Faculty of Nursing
Professor Judith H. Watt-Watson, Graduate Co-ordinator, Faculty of Nursing
Professor Donna Wells, Associate Dean, Education and Chair, Graduate Department of Nursing Science, Faculty of Nursing

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ITEM 3 IS RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL. THE REMAINING 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 6:00 p.m.

2. Report of the Previous Meeting

Report Number 90 of the meeting of October 24, 2001 was approved.

3. School of Graduate Studies: Reconfigured Mater of Nursing Program

As this program was in the Faculty in which the Chair held her academic appointment, she removed herself from the Chair. Professor Murty was in the Chair for this item.

The Vice-Chair welcomed Professors Donna Wells, Lisa Cicutto, Mary McAllister, and Judy H. Watt-Watson from the Faculty of Nursing and Professor Umberto de Boni from the School of Graduate Studies. He invited Professor Goel to introduce the proposal.

Professor Goel noted that this proposal was in two parts. The first concerned revisions to the Master of Nursing (MN) curriculum to provide greater focus and to streamline the program. Areas of focus within the field of “Clinical Nursing” had been defined, required clinical courses had been reconfigured, the number of elective courses had been reduced, and the overall number of course requirements had been reduced from 12 to 9 courses.

The second part concerned the conversion of the Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (ACNP) field of study to an e-learning format. This would be the first ACNP program in Canada to be offered in this way. It was designed to be completed over 16 months of full-time study or 27 months of part-time study, and included three required periods of residency at the University of Toronto of 7-14 days each.

Invited to comment, Professor Wells explained that, in September 2000, the Curriculum Committee within the Faculty had undertaken a review of the existing Master of Nursing program. The review was timely in light of the changing environment in which nurses deliver care and the increasing opportunities for nurses with advanced knowledge and clinical expertise. The review process involved faculty, students, and representatives from clinical agencies. The reconfigured program was approved by the Faculty Council in May 2001.

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3. School of Graduate Studies: Reconfigured Mater of Nursing Program (cont'd)

A member asked what the impact of the reduction from 12 to 9 courses would be. Professor Wells replied that the changes resulted in a more focused and specialized course of study. Professor Goel added that the proposed changes in this program were consistent with other program changes within the Health Sciences.

A member voiced concerns about the availability of accommodation for students during the residency requirements of the program. Professor Wells replied that the Faculty was very conscious of this issue and was exploring the possibility of residence accommodation with the University.

A member inquired whether the Faculty would identify someone to act as a liaison with students to facilitate their residency requirements. Professor Wells indicated that the Faculty intended to do so.

A member expressed surprise at the brief residency time required. Professor Wells noted that the residency time was adequate based on past experience, and that clinical courses were also required. The clinical courses would be offered at the home site of the student and be supervised by local preceptors.

A member asked whether there would be an evaluation of the e-learning component of the program. Professor Wells replied that it was the intention of the Faculty to undertake control studies as there would be classroom-based students in the program until 2004.

A member asked how the preceptors would be chosen. Professor McAllister explained that the Faculty had a data bank of four hundred preceptors in Ontario, and that the Faculty was developing a more structured approach to identifying preceptors nationally and internationally.

A member asked what the role of a preceptor was, and whether they assigned grades. Professor McAllister explained that the clinical courses were marked as credit or no credit, and no grade was assigned. Multiple approaches to evaluation were included within the program. The preceptors would be evaluated by students.

A member asked whether home care research would be directed towards policy. Professor Wells responded that research was grounded in three concepts – people, place and policy.

A member asked whether each student would have only one preceptor. Professor McAllister replied that each student would have a number of preceptors, since there were several clinical courses in the program.

A member asked whether there were similar programs in North America. Professor McAllister replied that there were a few similar programs in the United States.

A member commented that this e-learning program was the best thought-out program of its kind that he had seen, and requested that the Committee be kept informed of its progress.

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3. School of Graduate Studies: Reconfigured Mater of Nursing Program (cont'd)

A member asked what age group was expected to enroll in the program. Professor McAllister noted that one of the requirements of admission to the program was to be an established practitioner;, therefore most students would be in their thirties or forties.

On motion duly moved and seconded,

YOUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS

THAT the proposal for revisions to the curriculum of the Master of Nursing Program, including converting the Acute Care Nurse Practitioner field of study to an e-learning format, as described in the submission from the School of Graduate Studies dated October 19, 2001 attached hereto as "Appendix A", be approved, effective September 2002.

4. Research and International Relations Portfolio: Annual Report 2000-2001 and Plans for 2001-02-02

Professor Gallop assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

The Chair invited Professor Munroe-Blum to present her report. Her PowerPoint presentation is attached as Appendix "B". Professor Munroe-Blum highlighted the achievements of the University in the past year with respect to research funding, including being first in granting council awards for the seventh consecutive year and first to date in awards from the Government Research Infrastructure Programs (GRIP). She noted the number of faculty prizes and honours that had been received, including two memberships in the Royal Society of London (Professors Bond and Birgeneau), the King Faisal International Prize for Science (Professor John), and the Molson Prize (Professor Hacking). She reported on the strengthened ties with federal and provincial governments, as well as the increased research and international funding received from key foundations. She described the support services provided by her office in the area of grant proposal development, and improved web presence including the ethical review web site and the web-based course on the use of human subjects.

Professor Munroe-Blum provided a summary of technology transfer initiatives, including the establishment of the Medical and Related Sciences (MARS) district, the creation of six new spin-off companies, and the continued growth of overhead revenues. She concluded her presentation with an overview of priority plans for 2001-02, including increasing the level of research within the University, working with the federal and provincial governments to strengthen government support, and developing internationalization initiatives.

A member noted that international development was identified as an area for growth, and asked how the area of health studies was playing into this growth. Professor Munroe-Blum replied that the three main themes in international development were health studies, education and women. She also referred to the establishment of the Task Force on Internationalization and Strategic International Partners.

As Professor Munroe-Blum had to leave to attend another meeting, it was agreed that this item would be included on the agenda of the next meeting.

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5. Connaught Fund Annual Report 2000-01

The Chair welcomed Ms Judith Chadwick to the meeting. Members received for information the Connaught Fund Annual Report 2000-01. Professor Goel noted that a new committee in the Life Sciences had been established this year.

A member asked whether a student who received an Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) would be penalized since that award provided less funding than a Connaught award. Professor Katz replied that the School of Graduate Studies has provided 'top up' funding to ensure that students would not be penalized.

6. Items for Information

(a) Faculty of Medicine: Changes to the Diploma Program in Clinical Chemistry

This item was received for information. There were no questions.

(b) School of Graduate Studies: Revised wording for section of Enrolment Policy and Procedures of the General Regulations of the School of Graduate Studies

This item was received for information. In response to a question, the Chair noted that the revision addressed flex-time programs.

7. Reports of the Administrative Assessors

Professor Goel reported on the visit of the Undergraduate Program Review Audit Committee (UPRAC) to the University on November 22 and 23. He thanked the past and present members of the Committee who had met with the auditors on November 23. The report of the Audit is expected in the winter.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The Chair noted that the date of the next meeting was Wednesday, January 16, 2002.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Secretary

December 10, 2001

Chair