

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL
REPORT NUMBER 192 OF
THE UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS BOARD

February 2, 2016

To the Governing Council,
University of Toronto

Your Board reports that it met on Tuesday, February 2, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Simcoe Hall, with the following members present:

Mr. Andrew Szende, Chair
Ms Catherine Riddell, Vice-Chair
Professor Sandy Welsh, Vice-Provost,
Students
Mr. Vikram S. Chadalawada
Ms Erin Cicinelli
Ms Lucy Fromowitz, Assistant Vice-
President, Student Life
Ms Susan Froom
Ms Sue Graham-Nutter, (Chair, Campus
Affairs Committee, UTSC)
Ms Jenna Leigh Jacobson
Mr. Paul Kutasi
Dr. Joseph Leydon
Mr. Rhain P. Louis
Professor Jahn Mahrt-Smith
Mr. John F. Monahan

Ms Sylvia Mwangi
Mr. Mark Henry Rowsell
Professor Elizabeth Smyth
Professor Nicholas Terpstra
Mr. Amir Torabi

Non-Voting Assessors:

Mr. Mark Overton, Dean of Student Affairs,
University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM)
Mr. Desmond Pouyat, Dean of Student Affairs,
University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC)
Ms Meredith Strong, Director, Office of the
Vice-Provost, Students and Student Policy
Advisor

Secretariat:

Mr. Patrick McNeill, Secretary

Regrets:

Mr. Kawin Ethayarajh
Ms Sandra Hudson
Professor Gretchen Kerr
Mr. Nykolaj Kuryluk
Mr. Ridwan Olow
Mr. Lawrence Zhang

In Attendance:

Ms Lisa Chambers, Director for the Centre
For Community Partnerships
Mr. Paul Fraumeni, Executive Director,
Digital Creative Services
Ms Sally Garner, Executive Director,
Planning and Budget

Mr. Mike LeSage, Coordinator, Student
Policy Initiatives
Professor Faye Mishna, Dean, Factor-
Inwentash Faculty of Social Work
Mr. David Newman, Senior Director, Student
Experience

In Attendance continued:

Ms Joan Griffin, Assistant Director,
Office of the Vice-Provost, Students
Ms Shannon Howes, Manager, Student
Policy Initiatives & High Risk

Ms Rita O'Brien, Chief Administrative
Officer, Hart House
Mr. Ben Poynton, Senior Coordinator, AODA

ALL ITEMS ARE REPORTED FOR INFORMATION.

1. Academic Presentations:**a) Presentation by Professor Faye Mishna, Provostial Advisor on Aggression in Social Media**

The Chair introduced Professor Faye Mishna, Provostial Advisor on Aggression in Social Media and Dean of the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work.

Professor Mishna presented on the topic of “Cyber Aggression on Social Media”, which is appended to this Report, as it related to her research on cyber bullying and the changing social environment in post-secondary education. She described the level of studies that had been undertaken on children and youth, but noted that there were fewer studies on university/college students’ current experiences, especially in Canada. An online survey had been underway at U of T (January to April 2016) and would include focus groups of undergraduate and graduate students.

In response to several members’ comments, Professor Mishna stated that the survey would address the following questions:

- *To what extent does experiencing, perpetrating, &/or witnessing cyber aggression occur?*
- *Which types of cyber aggressive behaviours occur?*
- *Who is perpetuating cyber aggression within this context (e.g., university classmates, intimate partners)?*
- *What are the sociodemographic correlates of being victimized, perpetrating, & bystanders/witnesses?*
- *Have any measures of prevention &/or intervention been implemented? If yes, how helpful have these been?*

Professor Mishna thanked the Board for suggestions regarding the potential impact of the research on the formulation of new policies and guidelines; as well as its pedagogical impact on online learning.

a) University Budget Process Overview

Professor Welsh and Ms Garner made a detailed presentation on the process involved in the development of the University’s Budget, which is appended to this Report.

In response to a question from a member, Ms Garner said that the budget was primarily a bottom-up process, which was driven initially by the divisions based on academic and service priorities. The process was also informed by provincial and university policy, as well as external forces, such as the current and forecasted impact of global and Canadian financial markets. One of the largest challenges was the ongoing need to address the University’s pension solvency deficit.

The Chair thanked the speakers for their informative presentations.

2. Report on Student Experiences, Vice-Provost Students

Professor Welsh reported on the following:

Student Financial Support

Among the key points of Professor Welsh's presentation, which is appended to this Report, on student financial support were the following:

- The Policy on Student Financial Support (the financial guarantee), stated that “no student offered admission to a program ... should be unable to enter or complete the program due to lack of financial means”;
- The University had met this commitment by providing the most generous student support programs of any Ontario university or college, totalling \$176 M in 2013-14;
- Net tuition (after grants and scholarships) of undergraduate OSAP (Ontario Student Assistance Program) students was on average only 48% of the published cost;
- The University's core financial support programs comprised need-based and merit-based aid, divisional grants, and graduate funding packages;
- Need-based aid consisted of government-funded OSAP loans and grants, as well as University-funded UTAPS (University of Toronto Advanced Planning for Students) grants that covered financial needs not met by OSAP;
- Further sources of financial support were the Ontario Tuition Grant for students in direct-entry programs; the Meltz and Special Bursaries for part-time students; and Work Study, a program which provided paid work experience for students and was funded by the University;
- Average OSAP debt levels for students graduating from direct-entry programs at the University had continued to decrease, including for those with the highest debt levels;
- Many merit and need-based grants had also been provided by academic divisions.

Centre for Community Partnerships

The Board received a video presentation regarding the Centre for Community Partnerships (CCP).

Professor Welsh said that for the past ten years the Centre had connected students with opportunities to take action and learn from intentional community-based experiences outside the classroom, while building sustainable partnerships with community organizations across the GTA and Peel regions. These mutually beneficial partnerships had helped students deepen their understanding of the social, cultural, ethical and political dimensions of civic life through hands-on experiences working with Toronto's social sector. As one of the President's *Three Priorities*, the CCP would help to “Leverage our Location” by expanding opportunities for experiential learning in local communities.

Professor Welsh acknowledged the important work of the Centre and extended thanks to its Director, Ms Lisa Chambers, and her team. Ms Chambers was in attendance.

In response to written questions submitted by a member, Professor Welsh reported on the following two issues:

Transit to the Scarborough Campus

Professor Welsh indicated that the UTSC administration had continued to be engaged in discussions with the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) regarding transit to the Scarborough campus.

Equitable accommodation for students with injured or ill dependents

Professor Welsh advised that, each year, a number of U of T students had found themselves in the unfortunate position of dealing with ill or injured loved ones, while balancing academic obligations. Given the individual nature of these circumstances, divisional registrars would consider accommodations on a case-by-case basis. Registrars were also equipped to deal with specific financial circumstances (e.g. negotiating OSAP requirements in the event that a student had needed to take a leave from their studies).

Further, Professor Welsh said that some academic divisions had more formal policy frameworks in place. The Vice-Provost, Students would also consider the creation of guidelines.

3. Annual Report: Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees

The Chair noted that the annual report was an inventory of all compulsory non-academic incidental fees, as well as designated portions of those fees, that were approved by governance and collected by the University. It was presented to the Board for information only. It would also be presented to the Campus Affairs Committees at UTM and UTSC for information.

Professor Welsh explained that this was an annual report provided to the Board for information in advance of its consideration for approval of the 2016-17 fees at its Cycle 4 meeting. The report had provided a listing of compulsory non-academic incidental fees paid by students by division for the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 academic years. For reference, the schedules had also provided additional details on the student society fees and the student services fees. Professor Welsh stated that the report highlighted the range of fees across the University which were reflective of the local needs of the various divisions and any special programs within those divisions.

In response to written questions submitted by a member, Professor Welsh reported on two student society fees:

- The Office of the Vice-Provost, Students had met with the Engineering Society to clarify the language used in previous referendum questions. The Engineering Society had agreed that clarification was needed to ensure that the co-curricular nature of the specific projects supported by the fee would be enshrined in both the referendum questions and in their internal guidelines and processes.
- In the winter of 2013, a Special Projects Levy was created by the Faculty of Music Undergraduate Association (FMUA) and was scheduled to continue, with annual increases, through the 2015-16 academic year.
- At the time of the referendum, the FMUA and the Faculty of Music's senior administration had consulted with the Office of the Vice-Provost, Students on both the future use of the fees, and on the wording of the referendum question in order to ensure compliance with both Ministry and University policies regarding incidental fees.

Professor Welsh confirmed that fees collected on behalf of the student societies had to comply with the Provincial Tuition Fees Framework and University policies regarding incidental fees. The 2016-17 fees would be presented to the Board at the April (Cycle 5) meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly moved, seconded, and carried

YOUR BOARD APPROVED

THAT the consent agenda be adopted.

4. Report of the Previous Meetings: Report Number 191, November 23, 2015

Report Number 191 (November 23, 2015) was approved.

5. Business Arising from the Report of the Previous Meeting

There was no business arising from the report of the previous meeting.

6. Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 15, 2016, 4:30 p.m.

The Chair informed members that the next meeting was scheduled for February 2, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.

7. Report of the Senior Assessor

Professor Welsh reported on the following:

Report of the Committee on Preventing and Responding to Sexual Violence

The committee had completed its work and presented the President and the Provost with the report on February 2, 2016. The President and Provost would consider its recommendations and prepare a response. The report was available on-line at <http://safety.utoronto.ca/>

Policy on Open, Democratic and Accessible Operation of Student Organizations

A draft Policy was in development. A website would be launched which would include background information related to the creation of the draft Policy as well as a mechanism to provide feedback. The new policy would confirm the principles of autonomy of student societies, include principles to guide open, accessible and democratic functioning of student societies and outline a complaint and resolution process when a dispute was not resolved by a student society.

The new policy was intended to complement the existing *Policy for Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental fees* by providing clarity on the terms ‘open’, ‘accessible’ and ‘democratic’ and provide students with input on complaints brought forward to the Provost. The policy would also confirm that the new complaint and resolution process would not supersede the complaint process of the student organization. Further, as per the *Policy on Compulsory Non-Academic Incidental Fees*, the society’s internal complaint procedure must have been exhausted before proceeding to the complaint and resolution process that was outlined in this new Policy.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission

In December, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada had released its historic final report. The report included 94 Calls to Action - a number of which either directly or indirectly had related to universities across Canada. The President and Provost had struck a University-wide Steering Committee with a primary mandate to review the Calls to Action and begin implementation of those that fell within the University's mission and mandate. The Committee had been asked to present an Interim Report by July 1, 2016, and a final report by December 31, 2016. The Committee was also tasked to make recommendations on recruitment of and support for Indigenous students, faculty, and staff at the University, and the inclusion of Indigenous research, themes, and issues in the University's sesquicentennial celebrations beginning in 2017.

Food Services on the St. George Campus

The University had announced that it would directly operate food services on the St. George campus. Ms Anne MacDonald, U of T's director of ancillary services, would present the operating plans to the Board at the next meeting and speak about the change.

Governing Council Elections

There was a positive turnout in the number of students who had expressed their interest in running for Governing Council for 2016/17.

Surveys in the Field

The National College Health Assessment (NCHA) and the Canadian Graduate and Professional Student Survey (CGPSS) would be launched in February 2016.

The NCHA (last administered in 2013) would provide U of T and Canada-wide data on the health experiences, behaviours, and perceptions of students and was instrumental in the University's around supporting student health and wellness.

The CGPSS survey would generate qualitative data, inviting students to evaluate and comment on "program-specific, department-specific, advisor/supervisor-specific and university-wide aspects of their educational experience."

One member asked about the use of the data of both survey instruments and how it informed the University.

Professor Welsh and Ms Fromowitz responded that the NCHA results would be used as a significant part of the ongoing evaluation on progress around the Mental Health Framework and would be valuable for both the University and its divisions in identifying and addressing the health and wellness needs of its students. The CGPSS results would be used to evaluate program quality in UTQAP cyclical reviews and for planning for Faculties and departments. The results were crucial to understanding successes and challenges regarding the quality of U of T's graduate programs.

Professor Welsh encouraged students who would receive the NCHA and/or the CGPSS surveys to complete them.

8. Other Business

There were no matters of other business.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Secretary

Chair

February 4, 2016