

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

REPORT NUMBER 178 OF THE COMMITTEE ON
ACADEMIC POLICY AND PROGRAMS

March 1, 2016

To the Academic Board,
University of Toronto

Your Committee reports that it met on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 at 4:10 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Simcoe Hall, with the following present:

Professor Elizabeth M. Smyth (Chair)
Professor Maydianne C.B. Andrade
(Vice- Chair)
Professor Sioban Nelson, Vice-Provost,
Academic Programs
Mr. Ken Chan
Mr. Magno M. Guidote
Professor Susan Jaglal
Ms. Jennifer J. Lau
Professor Reid B. Locklin
Professor Alice Maurice

Professor Michael J.H. Ratcliffe
Ms. Melinda Scott
Professor Nicholas Terpstra
Professor Ning Yan

Mr. Richard Levin, Executive Director,
Enrolment Services and University
Registrar

Secretariat:
Mr. Patrick McNeill, Secretary

Regrets:

Professor Robert B. Gibbs
Professor Tara Goldstein
Ms. Mariam Hanna
Professor Richard Hegele
Dr. Allan Kaplan
Mr. Ray Khan
Professor Jim Yuan Lai
Professor Lacro Pavel
Professor Russell N. Pysklywec
Professor Markus Stock
Ms. Emily Tsui
Ms Alena Zelinka
Ms. Nana Mohan Zhou

In Attendance:

Ms Jennifer Francisco, Coordinator, Academic Change, Office of the Vice-Provost,
Academic Programs

In Attendance continued:

Dr. Daniella Mallinick, Director, Academic Programs, Planning and Quality Assurance,
Office of the Vice- Provost, Academic Programs
Ms Donna Wall, Director, Financial Aid and Awards
Professor Sandy Welsh, Vice-Provost, Students

ALL ITEMS ARE REPORTED FOR INFORMATION.

1. Academic Presentations:**a) Combinations of Programs and Degrees**

The main focus of Professor Nelson's presentation was dual, combined and double degrees programs which involved collaborations between two or more parties. She noted that combined degree programs had been offered at U of T for many years with 46 of them in place for 2015-16 (and for the combined degree programs expected to be in place for 2016-17, more than 20 would involve an undergraduate program and the Master of Teaching at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE)); dual degree programs would be established for the first time in 2016; double degree programs did not yet exist but a process had been underway to create them.

Professor Nelson described the various offerings and stated that all of the combinations either built on or established new collaborations for teaching and research across departments, divisions, or institutions. In particular, dual degrees had created an opportunity to further internationalize and had increased the University's global visibility and reach.

She noted that for the last 2-3 years, the Vice-Provost's office had worked with academic administrators and senior staff from across the university to clarify the academic principles that informed combined degree programs, and to better understand how they were administered and funded. This work had led to better templates that had been used to develop new combinations, clearer communication to students through the calendar copy, as well as other tools that had made it possible to scale up the number of offerings.

Professor Nelson stated that the program approval pathway for double degrees had not yet been determined but was under discussion. International joint degrees, however, were not offered at the University of Toronto. If the University were to establish them, this would require a full new program approval process and approval from the Postsecondary Education Quality Assessment Board (PEQAB), which was the government body that had accredited non-Ontario institutions that offered part or all of a degree in the province of Ontario.

Professor Nelson directed members to the Vice-Provost's website for additional information: <http://vpacademic.utoronto.ca>

One member stated that although academic approval had been granted for certain combined degrees, such programs had not been implemented due to difficult financial challenges such as the potential for net-loss of generated revenues; these issues had continued to be unaddressed.

Professor Nelson clarified that one outcome of the process improvements worked on over the last few years was that the proposal and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) development process for combined degree programs addressed the funding model from the outset. The recent MOAs involving OISE's combined degrees programs had provided a good example of an approval process that included up-front discussions between divisions on financial matters.

A member asked how student demand for a combined or joint program was determined.

Professor Nelson responded that most divisions are often informed by recent external reviews of programs which had identified emerging program needs and opportunities especially for professional degree programs. She added that university registrars also received feedback from 3rd and 4th year students.

The Chair thanked Professor Nelson for her presentation and noted that additional information would be forthcoming in Cycle 6.

b) Applicant Survey

Mr. Levin presented on the results of the University Applicant Survey that had been administered in August/September, 2015 – a copy of the presentation is attached to this Report. The survey included a response sample of both confirmed and declined student participants.

Influencers or deciding factors to accept an offer included among others the University's strong reputation and high rankings, location, and offering of high quality academic programs. Representative responses also provided a picture of applicant perceptions and the reasons applicants did not choose U of T. The information would better assist enrolment services and all divisional and university registrars on areas of improvement such as the timing of offers and overall communications to address misperceptions of student life, financial support and difficulty of programs.

Mr. Levin stated that the "*Discover U of T*" website contained a series of videos related to the application process and information about the University, including student life, etc.: <http://discover.utoronto.ca/>

The Chair thanked Mr. Levin for his presentation.

2. Annual Report on Student Awards Established, Amended and Withdrawn: July 1, 2014 to July 30, 2015

The Chair reminded members that the *Policy on Student Awards* specified that the University Registrar report all new, amended and withdrawn awards annually to the Academic Board through the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs. In addition, as part of its general monitorial responsibility over academic matters, the Committee received an annual report on student awards.

3. Annual Report on Student Financial Support, 2014-15

The Chair explained that the *Policy on Student Financial Support* called for an annual report to be submitted for information to the Committee. The Report provided information on need-based aid by academic divisions, OSAP debt-load for students graduating from undergraduate direct-entry programs, and funding for graduate students in doctoral stream programs.

Mr. Richard Levin made a presentation on the Annual Report. Ms Donna Wall, Director, Financial Aid and Awards was in attendance to answer questions.

Highlights of the presentation, which is appended to this Report, included 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.

In response to a member who asked about the Provincial Government’s 2016-17 budget announcement regarding a new Ontario Student Grant program, Professor Welsh stated that all colleges and universities had been waiting to hear about the details of the new program.

The Chair thanked Mr. Levin and Ms Wall for their report.

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly moved, seconded and carried

YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED

THAT the consent agenda be adopted and items approved.

4. Report of the Previous Meeting: Report 177 – January 12, 2016

Report Number 177 (January 12, 2016) 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:

Members were reminded that the next regular meeting (Cycle 5) was scheduled for March 30, 2016 at 4:10 p.m.

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

7. Reports of the Administrative Assessors

Professor Nelson provided a response to a question presented at the previous meeting regarding the sale of exams. She stated that under certain circumstances a student might be breaking the *Student Code of Conduct* if an exam was acquired outside a university sanctioned process. In addition, the sale of exams could infringe on the copyright of the instructor. In most cases, the University did not encourage students acquiring exams and that the matter was not straight forward.

Professor Nelson advised that under the University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP), this Committee would be presented with one follow-up report and 12 reviews (10 decanal, 1 Provostial and 1 non-UTQAP Provostial) at the next meeting.

8. Other Business

The Chair reminded the Committee that Part 2, Reviews of Academic Programs and Units, would be on the agenda for the next meeting on March 30th, 2016. As had been the practice, the membership would be divided into reading groups, and the reviews would be divided among these reading groups. A spokesperson would also be identified for each group, who would have initial responsibility for communicating the reviews of the reading groups. The Chair thanked the Committee members in advance for their participation in the review process.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Secretary

Chair

March 1, 2016