

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
THE GOVERNING COUNCIL
REPORT NUMBER 122 OF THE COMMITTEE ON
ACADEMIC POLICY AND PROGRAMS

May 10, 2006

To the Academic Board,
University of Toronto.

Your Committee reports that it held a meeting on Wednesday, May 10, 2006 at 4:10 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Simcoe Hall, at which the following were present:

Professor J.J. Berry Smith
(In the Chair)
Professor Edith Hillan, Vice-Provost,
Academic
Professor David Farrar, Deputy Provost
and Vice-Provost, Students
Professor Rona Abramovitch
Mr. Navine K. Aggarwal
Professor Derek Allen
Professor Gage Averill
Mr. Blake Chapman
Professor Luc De Nil
Dr. Inez N. Elliston
Ms Linda B. Gardner
Professor Ronald H. Kluger
Professor Ian R. McDonald
Professor Douglas McDougall
Ms Vera Melnyk
Mr. Matto Mildenberger
Professor Andrea Sass-Kortsak
Professor John Scherk
Miss Maureen Somerville

Non-Voting Assessors:

Professor Susan Pfeiffer, Vice-Provost,
Graduate Education and Dean, School
of Graduate Studies
Ms Karel Swift, University Registrar

Secretariat:

Mr. Andrew Drummond, Secretary

Regrets:

Dr. Raisa B. Deber
Mr. Christopher Goode
Professor Wayne K. Hindmarsh

Professor Linda McGillis Hall
Mr. Andrew Pinto
Professor Anthony Sinclair
Professor Janet Paterson

In Attendance:

Professor Pamela Catton, Department of Radiation Oncology
Professor Joseph Desloges, Department of Geography
Professor Mary Gospadarowicz, Department of Radiation Oncology

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ITEMS 3 AND 5 CONTAIN RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE ACADEMIC BOARD FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CONFIRMATION. ITEM 4 CONTAINS A RECOMMENDATION TO THE ACADEMIC BOARD FOR GOVERNING COUNCIL APPROVAL. ALL OTHER ITEMS ARE REPORTED FOR INFORMATION.

Having called the meeting to order, the Chair reminded members that there was a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 31, 2006, at which the Committee would consider reviews of academic programs and units. The governance review process, he noted, was among the most important oversight tasks charged to the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs, and urged all members to attend. As with the 2005 process, all members would be sent summaries of reviews. Each member would be assigned several full reviews to read and to report to the Committee on the process of the review and any issues that should be brought to the attention of governance.

In response to questions raised by members, it was confirmed that members would be given guidance for their assignments, and that administrative responses would be included in materials as appropriate reference points.

1. Reports of the Previous Meetings

Report Number 121 (March 1, 2006) was approved.

2. Business Arising from the Previous Meeting

There was no business arising from the previous meeting.

3. Faculty of Medicine: Medical Radiation Sciences Program curriculum redesign

Professor Hillan informed members that the proposal before members represented a significant curriculum redesign for the Medical Radiation Sciences Program, which would include five Interprofessional Education (IPE) courses, along with enhanced clinical preparation time. The total number of credits required would not be altered, nor were the desired curriculum outcomes.

A member asked about the use of the term ‘selectives’ to refer to courses, noting that he had not seen it prior. Professor Catton replied that the term was used to differentiate between ‘electives’, which were courses chosen by students with no input from the program, and ‘selectives’, which were chosen from a menu of courses provided by the program to advance the program’s curriculum. Professor Catton confirmed that there was a student leadership team in place, and, indeed, a number of curriculum revisions had been driven primarily by student input into the process.

On motion duly moved and seconded

YOUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS

THAT the Medical Radiation Sciences Program curriculum redesign be approved, as outlined in the documentation dated March 21, 2006 and attached hereto as Appendix “A”, effective for September 2007.

Report Number 122 of the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs - May 10, 2006**4. School of Graduate Studies: Proposal for a new PhD in Planning to be offered through the Department of Geography, Faculty of Arts and Science**

The Chair welcomed Professor Joseph Desloges, Department of Geography, to the meeting.

Professor Hillan informed members that the proposed PhD built on the existing Master's program in Planning. The name and designation of the program was meant to convey the depth of the program and its association with the Master's program. Support for the proposal had come from a variety of units and individuals, including from the Geography Students' Society. Both the Department and the Faculty were providing resources to make the program a reality, and the Planning and Budget Committee had approved the financial aspects of the proposal on May 9, 2006.

A member asked how the program would relate to the PhD in Geography. Professor Desloges responded that it would occur in parallel, with some crossover potential. Each field, however, had its distinctiveness, which justified the existence of two programs. The member then asked if the size of the program (12 students) was comparable to other North American programs. Professor Desloges responded in the affirmative, noting that there was a critical mass of supervisory capacity. He opined that demand for the program would be larger than supply.

A member asked if there was a professional accreditation group for Planners. Professor Desloges responded that the Ontario Professional Planners Institute was the provincial group, and there was a national group known as the Canadian Institute of Planners. Professional planners were required to maintain membership.

A member congratulated the Department on the preparation of the documentation before members, noting that it represented a major improvement from other graduate proposals.

On motion duly moved and seconded

YOUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS

THAT the PhD in Planning at the Faculty of Arts and Science Department of Geography be recommended to Governing Council for approval, effective September 2007.

5. Faculty of Arts and Science: Design change to the Bachelor of Commerce diploma

Professor Hillan noted that almost half of the courses in the Bachelor of Commerce degree were delivered by the Rotman School of Management, and therefore the addition of the Dean of Rotman to the signature list was appropriate. The proposal did not include retroactivity.

During discussion, members confirmed that the Dean of the Rotman School supported the change, and that the recommendation had arisen from an external review of the School of Management.

Ms. Swift noted that a logistical problem existed, in that there was currently no room to add the signature. However, a Committee reviewing the processes surrounding Convocation was recommending changes, and space would be available.

On motion duly moved and seconded

YOUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED

THAT the Bachelor of Commerce degree diploma include the signatures of the Deans of both the Faculty of Arts and Science and the Joseph L. Rotman School of Management, effective for June 2007 convocation.

6. School of Graduate Studies: New transfer credit subcategories and Advanced Standing definition

Professor Pfeiffer informed the Committee that the proposed changes were seen as a clarification of existing practice for the benefit of students. The changes established clear language for transfer credit, and had been reviewed by SGS and approved.

A member thanked the School of Graduate Studies for initiating the change, stating that the lack of clarity encouraged the granting of course exemptions rather than the granting of credit where appropriate. Professor Pfeiffer stated that it was more helpful to clarify the options available while allowing flexibility on a case-by-case basis as appropriate.

A member asked if the changes would apply to students transferring from a Master's level program to a PhD program on an accelerated basis. Professor Pfeiffer and another member clarified that the proposed changes were designed to deal with transfers from other institutions, not within the same one. The rules were consistent with rules for undergraduate programs at the University of Toronto.

On motion duly moved and seconded

YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED

THAT the School of Graduate Studies introduce three subcategories of Transfer Credit and a definition of Advanced Standing, as described in the documentation from Professor Edith Hillan, dated April 26, 2006, effective September 2006.

7. School of Graduate Studies: Admission requirements for the Combined Jeffrey Skoll B.A.Sc./M.B.A. Program

Professor Hillan introduced the item, noting that the proposed change was to allow students in the second or third year of the B.A.Sc. Program to apply, and to add the option of substituting up to two 400-level (or higher) Engineering courses for 2000-level Management courses.

A member pointed out that the proposal did not show what the status quo for the program was, and encouraged proposers to make sure that the changes were clear. Professor Pfeiffer clarified that students under the existing rules were not allowed substitutions, and that second-year students were unable to be admitted to the program. The member asked if the program was a four-year program. Professor Pfeiffer answered in the negative, noting that the additional workload of the program required additional years.

A member asked what was driving the change. Professor Pfeiffer responded that student demand was high for the very valued program. The program offered a sense of a cohort and was seen as a highly desirable method of entering the professional workforce with some advantages.

On motion duly moved and seconded

YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED

THAT the admission and program requirements of the Combined Jeffrey Skoll B.A.Sc./M.B.A. Program be changed as outlined in the memorandum from Professor Edith Hillan, dated March 31, 2006, commencing September, 2006.

Report Number 122 of the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs - May 10, 2006**8. Annual Report on Student Awards Established, Amended and Withdrawn: July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005**

Members received for information the above-noted report. Ms. Swift noted for the record that the list included all awards in the University of Toronto, but not those in the Federated Colleges. The number and level of awards remained healthy, and the total endowment was slightly higher than previously on the strength of larger gifts. Several of the awards were set with special conditions to allow the institution to try to attract targeted students.

A member questioned whether award #79 was for students at the University of Toronto Schools only. Ms. Swift answered in the affirmative. Professor Farrar noted that, because of a new affiliation agreement, the awards for UTS would gravitate to the Schools and away from the University, and would therefore not be included in future reports.

A member questioned why awards would be withdrawn. Ms. Swift responded that such awards were almost universally funded on an annual basis rather than through endowments, and that the funding was terminated.

9. Item for Information**(a) Report on Academic Disruption Due to the Ontario Public Service Employees Union Strike**

Professor Hillan noted that the administration had the option to call an academic disruption according to processes subsumed in the Grading Practices Policy in order to preserve the academic integrity of a program; such declarations required reporting to the Committee. In this case, the strike by College staff from March 7 – March 27, 2006 resulted in disruptions to eight joint programs with Sheridan College (three programs offered jointly with the University of Toronto at Mississauga) and Centennial College (five programs offered jointly with the University of Toronto at Scarborough). Following consultation with the Colleges, students in the programs were informed via electronic mail. Not all students were affected, and those who were were supported in a manner that they could complete their studies. Professor Hillan conveyed the thanks of the administration to the students for their understanding as the process occurred.

10. Reports of the Administrative Assessors**Vice-Provost, Graduate Education**

Professor Pfeiffer reported the changes to Graduate governance had been proceeding, with Faculty Constitutions undergoing revisions. Most relevant changes would be in place by July 1, 2006.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Members were reminded that the next regular meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, May 31, 2006.

12. Other Business

There was no other business.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

 Secretary

 Chair

May 23, 2006