

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**  
**THE GOVERNING COUNCIL**  
**REPORT NUMBER 170 OF THE COMMITTEE ON**  
**ACADEMIC POLICY AND PROGRAMS**

**October 28, 2014**

To the Academic Board,  
University of Toronto

Your Committee reports that it met on Tuesday, October 28, 2014 at 4:10 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Simcoe Hall, with the following present:

Professor Maydianne Andrade (In the Chair)	Professor Paul Kingston
Professor Sioban Nelson, Vice-Provost, Academic Programs and Vice- Provost, Faculty and Academic Life	Ms Pádraigín Murphy
Professor Locke Rowe, Vice-Provost, Graduate Research and Education, Dean of the School of Graduate Studies	Professor Emmanuel Nikiema
Ms Halla Ahmed	Dr. Graeme W. Norval
Ms Shakira Brathwaite	Professor Russell Pysklywec
Professor Markus Bussman	Professor Sonia Sedivy
Mr. Ken Chan*	Professor Markus Stock
Professor Zhong-Ping Feng	Professor Nhung Tuyet Tran
Ms Stephanie Gaglione	Professor Vincent Tropepe
	Ms Adriel Weaver
	Professor Sandy Welsh
	Ms Alena Zelinka

**Secretariat:**

Mr. Patrick F. McNeill

\*Via Conference Call

**Regrets:**

Professor Robert B. Gibbs	Professor Peter Lewis, Interim Vice- President, Research and Innovation
Professor Tara Goldstein	Ms Lorraine McLachlan
Mr. Richard Levin, Executive Director, Enrolment Services and University Registrar	Professor Elizabeth Peter
	Professor Elizabeth M. Smyth (Chair)

**In Attendance:**

Professor Harvey Anderson, Acting Chair, Department of Nutritional Sciences,  
Faculty of Medicine  
Professor Abigail Bakan, Chair, Department of Social Justice Education, Ontario Institute  
for Studies in Education  
Professor Shyon Baumann, Chair, Department of Sociology, UTM  
Professor Steffen-Sebastian Bolz, Interim Chair, Department of Physiology,  
Faculty of Medicine

Professor Tony Chambers, Chair, Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education,  
Ontario Institute for Studies in Education  
Ms Yen Du, Program and Planning Officer, UTM  
Ms Jennifer Francisco, Coordinator, Academic Change, Office of the Vice-Provost,  
Academic Programs  
Professor Rick Halpern, Vice-Principal, Academic and Dean, UTSC  
Dr. Jane E. Harrison, Director, Academic Programs, Planning and Quality Assurance,  
Office of the Vice-President and Provost  
Professor Ira Jacobs, Dean, Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education  
Professor Gretchen Kerr, Vice Dean, Academic Affairs, Faculty of Kinesiology and  
Physical Education  
Professor Doug McDougall, Chair, Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning,  
Ontario Institute for Studies in Education  
Professor Amy Mullin, Vice-Principal Academic and Dean, UTM  
Ms Teresa Nicoletti, Administrative Coordinator, Office of the Dean, FAS  
Professor Julia O'Sullivan, Dean, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education  
Professor Susan Rappolt, Chair, Department of Occupational Science and Occupational  
Therapy, Faculty of Medicine  
Professor Seamus Ross, Dean, Faculty of Information  
Ms Mae-Yu Tan, Acting Coordinator, Academic Planning and Reviews, Office of the  
Vice-Provost, Academic Programs  
Professor Scott Thomas, Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education  
Professor Sharon Switzer-McIntyre, Department of Physical Therapy, Faculty of Medicine  
Professor Sarita Verma, Deputy Dean, Faculty of Medicine  
Professor Xiaodong Zhu, Chair, Department of Economics, UTM

ITEM 1 IS REPORTED TO THE ACADEMIC BOARD FOR RECOMMENDATION. ALL  
OTHER ITEMS ARE REPORTED FOR INFORMATION.

**1. Proposal for new Master of Professional Kinesiology, Faculty of Kinesiology and  
Physical Education (M.P.K.)**

The Chair welcomed Professor Ira Jacobs and Professor Scott Thomas, Faculty of  
Kinesiology and Physical Education, to the meeting; and, advised that the Committee had  
the authority to recommend to the Academic Board for approval new graduate programs  
and degrees.

Professor Nelson informed members that the program for a new Master of Professional  
Kinesiology was designed to provide advanced level research-informed educational and  
leadership experience in the field of professional kinesiology. She noted that the  
appraiser's positive report underlined that the proposed professional program would be  
extremely timely.

Professor Ira Jacobs, Dean, Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education added that the  
M.P.K. would be the first graduate degree program of its kind in Ontario. There was no  
comparable program in Ontario that provided advanced training and leadership within the  
profession and practice of Kinesiology.

He also noted that the faculty associated with the proposed program had strong linkages with the clinical research facilities within the nine fully affiliated hospitals of the University of Toronto.

A member raised the issue of how the Faculty would assess the program, not just the academic components, but overall, to ensure that it would achieve one of its main goals to place its graduates in the profession.

Professor Thomas responded that as a newly regulated health profession there was no readily available information in terms of where graduates found positions. One objective of the academic plan was to become more informed about this in order to be able to assess the success of how its graduates would be well placed to establish careers in this growing area. The proposal would be revised to include a more detailed section on evaluation.

On motion duly made, seconded and carried

#### YOUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS

THAT the proposed Master of Professional Kinesiology program, which will confer the new degree of M.P.K., as described in the proposal from the Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education dated October 1, 2014 be approved effective for the academic year September 2016.

## 2. Reviews of Academic Programs and Units

The Chair reminded members that the Committee had general responsibility for monitoring the quality of education and research activities within the University. Part of this responsibility, outlined in the *Accountability Framework for Cyclical Review of Academic Programs and Units*, was to undertake a comprehensive overview of reviews of academic programs and units, and monitor the results of the reviews and administrative responses. All reviews were brought forward to the Committee for information.

### 2a) Follow-up Reports from Previous Reviews

#### **Ontario Institute for Studies in Education: Programs offered by the Department of Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning; the Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education; and, the Department of Social Justice Education and its programs**

Professor Nelson advised that under the University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP) this Committee may request a one-year follow-up report when concerns are raised in an external review that require a longer period of response. OISE's graduate programs were reviewed early in 2012 and the reviews and administrative responses were considered by the Committee later that year.

Professor Nelson explained that, given the departmental restructuring process that OISE was undergoing at the time, the Committee asked for a two-year follow-up report from three of its departments.

Members were informed of the following:

Programs offered by the Department of Curriculum, Teaching, and Learning

The Department had been reviewing and modifying the curriculum of the Master of Teaching program, and it had increased the number of teaching subjects available in the program. The Department would develop a five-year recruitment and enrolment management strategy.

Programs offered by the Department of Leadership, Higher and Adult Education (LHAE)

As a new Department, LHAE offered three graduate programs and was in the process of reviewing program and degree options this year. It was also taking steps to ensure collaboration across programs.

Programs offered by the Department of Social Justice Education

The Department of Social Justice Education had been focusing on developing a new curricular model for its degree programs and had developed compulsory foundational master's and doctoral courses. It had also implemented a faculty renewal plan that would help address student: faculty ratios.

Professor Nelson stated that, overall, the steps that OISE and its departments had been taking since the external reviews two years ago to address issues of key importance and to build on the strength of its programs and resources had been very thorough. She congratulated Dean O'Sullivan and her team on their successes.

**2b) Semi-Annual Report on the Reviews of Academic Units and Programs, April - October, 2014**

The Chair reported that eleven reviews would be considered by the Committee for information and discussion.

Of these, two were commissioned by the Vice-President and Provost including the review of the University of Toronto Scarborough, a non-UTQAP review of the division's administrative functions where no programs were reviewed; and, review of the Faculty of Information (graduate programs: Master of Information; Master of Museum Studies; Information Studies, Doctor of Philosophy).

Nine reviews were commissioned by the Deans including the University of Toronto Scarborough's programs in Centre for Critical Development Studies; Faculty of Arts & Science's Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures; Faculty of Medicine's Departments of Nutritional Sciences; Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology; Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy; Physical Therapy; and, Department of Physiology; and, the University of Toronto Mississauga's Departments of Economics and Sociology.

Each of the submissions included the signed administrative responses from the appropriate Dean, which highlighted action plans in response to reviewer recommendations.

The Chair explained the review process, including whether or not any matters would be brought to the attention of the Agenda Committee or whether a follow-up report to the Committee was necessary. Professor Andrade noted that the Reviews had been distributed among four Reading Groups, and each group had been asked to address three questions:

- 1) *Does the summary accurately tell the story of the full review?*
- 2) *Does the administrative response address all issues identified?*
- 3) *Are there any questions, comments or substantive issues that the Committee should consider; and, is there need to ask that the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs to bring forward a follow-up report?*

Professor Nelson provided some general comments noting that over the years, the Vice-Provost and the Committee had carefully examined the review reports to identify both recurring and new themes. The themes raised in the April to October, 2014 group of reviews reflected previous reviews considered by the Committee. In particular, the themes included the excellence of the University's research reputation and the outstanding quality of its programs.

The Committee had a thorough discussion of each of the reviews. In some cases, members of the Reading Group asked for clarification of points raised in the reviews. Representatives of the units and programs that had been reviewed were available to answer questions.

Faculty of Information (Provostial Review): Graduate: Master of Information; Master of Museum Studies; Doctor of Philosophy in Information Studies

The spokesperson for the reading group said that the answers to the first two questions were positive. Professor Norval reported that two issues were raised by the reviewers with respect to the management structure and communications within the Faculty; and the length of time to completion rates of doctoral students. The group suggested that a follow-up report be provided to the Committee in two years.

Professor Ross stated he would be pleased to provide a follow-up report to the Committee and noted that the review experience, including the self-study component of the review, was fascinating. He commented on the helpfulness of the reviewers.

The Committee formally requested that a written follow-up report be given in two years on the review of the Faculty of Information from the Dean to outline developments with respect to the Faculty's management structure, strengthening communication among members of the Faculty, and time to completion rates of doctoral students.

University of Toronto Scarborough (Provostial Review, Non-UTQAP)

The spokesperson for the reading group said that the review was very thorough and successfully addressed all three questions. Professor Norval asked the Dean to share some of the contents of his response with the Committee regarding english remedial programs at UTSC.

Professor Halpern provided some background with respect to the challenges faced by students for whom English was not their first language. He stated that UTSC has a number of enhanced student support and development initiatives within both the Dean's portfolio and that of Student Affairs. Some of the initiatives included use of diagnostic program software to check on academic English proficiency offered to students on a volunteer and anonymous basis by the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL); english language programming offered by CTL; strong first generation mentorship and academic support program; and a mentorship program for international students in first year (First Year Experience Program).

Professor Nelson observed that other faculties could learn from the initiatives of UTSC and the creative solutions they continued to implement.

The Committee agreed that the Chair would share with the Agenda Committee the work described by the Dean about UTSC's efforts to improve english language literacy of entering students and to support the transition of students into upper years. No follow-up report was requested.

#### University of Toronto Scarborough (Decanal Review): Programs in the Centre for Critical Development Studies

The spokesperson for the reading group said that the summary of the review captured all of the key issues, and the administrative response was complete. Professor Norval noted that the review was an exceptionally impressive one. The review spoke very highly of the program as being unlike any other in North America.

The Chair congratulated the faculty on its excellent and glowing review and concluded that there was no need to propose further consideration of any matter. No follow-up report was requested.

#### Faculty of Arts & Science (Decanal Review): Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures and its programs

The spokesperson stated that the review was very positive and included a comprehensive response by the Dean. Members of the reading group asked questions about the role of the departmental working group established by the department to address issues of gender and diversity; the new field in Yiddish Studies program and the teaching & learning space.

Professor Stock responded that the department was addressing the issue of gender balance and that one faculty search was underway and one CLTA had recently been appointed.

Professor Welsh commented that, as a new field (established two years ago), the Yiddish Studies field was very popular and was likely to expand. Part of the challenge to expand included providing sufficient classroom space. The Faculty continued to work with its Federated University partners, including St. Michael's College to address both short and long-term needs.

No follow-up report was requested.

Faculty of Medicine (Decanal Review): Department of Nutritional Sciences and its programs

The spokesperson for the reading group said that the summary of the review captured all of the key issues, and the administrative response was complete. The review spoke very highly of the program noting the strength of its research and graduate programs.

One member asked how the department planned to address both short and long-term space planning needs as raised in the review.

Professor Verma responded that space in the Fitzgerald Building continued to present challenges to the program and many others in the Faculty of Medicine. The Faculty had undertaken a Master Plan, and would seek external funding and look to develop further partnerships with the 13 affiliated hospitals, of which 9 were located in downtown Toronto.

No follow-up report was requested.

Faculty of Medicine (Decanal Review): Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology and its programs

The spokesperson for the reading group said that the summary and the administrative response were very good. The department had strong leadership and a strategic plan was in place. Professor Kingston asked how the department planned to address changes in the Canadian Institutes of Health Research funding model and its impact on research.

Professor Verma acknowledged that the changes presented a challenge across all Faculty of Medicine departments. The strategic plan was robust and tried to identify new opportunities including partnerships with other research institutes and groups, such as the Chief Coroner's Office. She commented that it would be appropriate to provide a follow-up report on achieving success and addressing funding issues.

The Committee requested a follow-up report in one year that outlined steps taken to respond to changes in the Canadian Institutes of Health Research funding model.

Faculty of Medicine (Decanal Review): Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy and its programs

The spokesperson for the reading group said that the review was very positive and the program was one of the best in North America. The reviewers praised the program for its

strong theoretical-based curriculum approach. Professor Kingston noted that the Dean's Response was not as detailed as it could be with regard to using contract faculty and on addressing the recommendation to form a Task Force on governance structural issues.

Professor Verma advised that the governance structure was under review. Some programs, such as Rehabilitation Sciences were continuing to evolve and consideration was being given as to whether it would become its own department.

Professor Rappolt explained that the department had historically used contract faculty. The department would be in the position, as part of an active recruitment strategy, to consider the hiring of more doctorate and post-doctorate candidates.

Professor Nelson added that many of the professional programs relied on part-time contracted employees, most of whom were also affiliated with and employed by the hospitals.

No follow-up report was requested. The committee suggested two small adjustments to the review report summary.

#### Faculty of Medicine (Decanal Review): Department of Physical Therapy and its program

The spokesperson for the reading group said that the summary of the review captured all of the key issues, and that the administrative response was complete. The review spoke very highly of the program, particularly of its exemplary research and leadership position among other Physical Therapy programs.

The group had no questions and no follow-up report was requested.

#### Faculty of Medicine (Decanal Review): Department of Physiology and its programs

The spokesperson for the reading group said that the answers to the first two questions were positive and that the overall assessment was laudable. The reviewers recognized it as one of the top-tier programs in North America and around the world.

Professor Kingston asked the faculty representative how they viewed the Reviewer's recommendation about 4<sup>th</sup> year program content.

Professor Bolz advised that the Department's Associate Chair would be leading a committee with a mandate to address the reviewer's recommendations, and the 4<sup>th</sup> year content issue, in particular.

In response to a member's question about graduate seminars, Professor Tropepe explained that 8 seminars were presented using speakers from across the department's four platforms

of study and research. The reviewers had suggested an increase in the number of seminars to provide graduate students with broader exposure to physiology and all its programs.

No follow-up report was requested.

University of Toronto Mississauga (Decanal Review): Department of Economics and its programs

The spokesperson stated that the review was very positive and included a comprehensive response by the Dean. The reviewers recognized the program for its top-notch research and strong linkages between graduate and undergraduate learning.

Although the reading group had no major comments, several questions were raised, including one about the amount of time spent outside the classroom by faculty with students at the UTM campus; and another, about the success of graduates finding employment.

Professor Zhu responded that there were challenges associated with faculty spending meaningful time outside the classroom with students, especially if they lived far away from campus. UTM had initiated a visitor program and planned to have more conferences on campus which would encourage more faculty-student interaction outside the classroom.

Professor Mullin noted that the 6-month rate of employment following graduation was considered good, but there were new initiatives underway by career services, such as a professional development program for students.

No follow-up report was requested.

University of Toronto Mississauga (Decanal Review): Department of Sociology and its programs

The spokesperson for the reading group said that the summary and the administrative response were very good. The review was positive and recognized the extensive growth of the program and an impressive research profile.

One question was asked about the Dean's recruitment efforts.

Professor Mullin advised that a Task Force had been struck to consider new recruitment efforts to attract and retain students throughout the full length of the 4-year program. The Task Force would also address misconceptions about the value of a degree in Sociology.

No follow-up report was requested.

The Chair and Vice-Provost thanked the Deans and faculty representatives for their reports and thanked the entire membership for their comments and their contribution to the review process.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

On motion duly moved, seconded and carried

**YOUR COMMITTEE APPROVED**

THAT the consent agenda be adopted and items approved.

### **3. Report of the Previous Meeting: Report 169 – September 16, 2014**

Report number 169, of the meeting of September 16, 2014 was approved.

### **4. Business Arising from the Report of the Previous Meeting**

Professor Nelson responded to a previous member query about privacy issues and social media in the classroom following the presentation on U of T Engagement in Ontario Online at the September 16, 2014 meeting.

### **5. Date of Next meeting**

Members were reminded that the next regular meeting was scheduled for January 13, 2015 (starting at 4:10 p.m.).

### **6. Reports of the Administrative Assessors**

There were no reports from the Administrative Assessors.

### **7. Other Business**

There was no other business.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

October 29, 2014