ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEETING
Academic Council

AGENDA
Date: March 24, 2026
Time: 2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Zoom Videoconference Link (registration required)

AC Meeting Schedule and Materials 2025-2026

No.		Topic	Lead	Suggested Start Time
PUBLIC SESSION				
1.		**Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement**	Chair	2:30 p.m.
2.		**Agenda (M)**		
3.		**Chair's Remarks**	Chair	2:35 p.m.
4.		**Inquiries and Communications**	Chair	2:45 p.m.
	4.1	COU Academic Colleague Report* (I)	R. Ruttenberg-Rozen	2:50 p.m.
5.		**Provost's Remarks**	L. Livingston	3:00 p.m.
	5.1	Senior Academic Administrator Search Update (I)		
6.		**Undergraduate Studies Committee**	M. Bluechardt	3:10 p.m.
7.		**Graduate Studies Committee**	P. Mirza-Babaei	3:15 p.m.
8.		**Research Committee**	L. Jacobs	3:20 p.m.
9.		**Consent Agenda: (M)**	Chair	3:25 p.m.
	9.1	Public Minutes of the February 24, 2026 Meeting* (M)		
	9.2	Minor Program Adjustments from USC*(I) (i) Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: Automotive, Industrial, and Mechanical Engineering* (I) (ii) Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: Electrical Engineering* (I)		

		(iii) Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: Manufacturing Engineering* (I) (iv) Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: Mechatronics Engineering* (I) (v) Faculty of Science: Co-operative Education in the Faculty of Science* (I) (vi) Faculty of Science: Bachelor of Arts and Science (Hons), Sustainability* (I) (vii) Faculty of Business and Information Technology: Entrepreneurship Minor* (I) (viii) Frazer Faculty of Education: Bachelor of Education – Primary/Junior and Intermediate/Senior options* (I) (ix) Faculty of Social Science and Humanities: Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Criminology and Justice* (I)		
	9.3	Minor Program Adjustments from GSC*(I) (i) Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: Electrical and Computer Engineering, MASc/MEng/PhD* (I) (ii) Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: Nuclear Design Engineering, Graduate Diploma* (I) (iii) Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: Software Engineering, MASc and MEng* (I)		
	9.4	Cyclical Program Review from GSC* (I) (i) 18-Month Follow-up Report: Modelling and Computational Science, PhD and MSc*(I)		
10.		**Termination**	Chair	3:30 p.m.

Nicola Crow, University Secretary

Academic Colleagues Notes for Feb. 10-11 2026
Prepared by Robyn Ruttenberg-Rozen for March Ontario Tech Academic Council

Feb. 10

Steve Orsini presented updates and sought confidential input regarding COU's draft paper on the Future of Postsecondary Education.

Steve Orsini Notes (from the meeting notes shared by the COU):

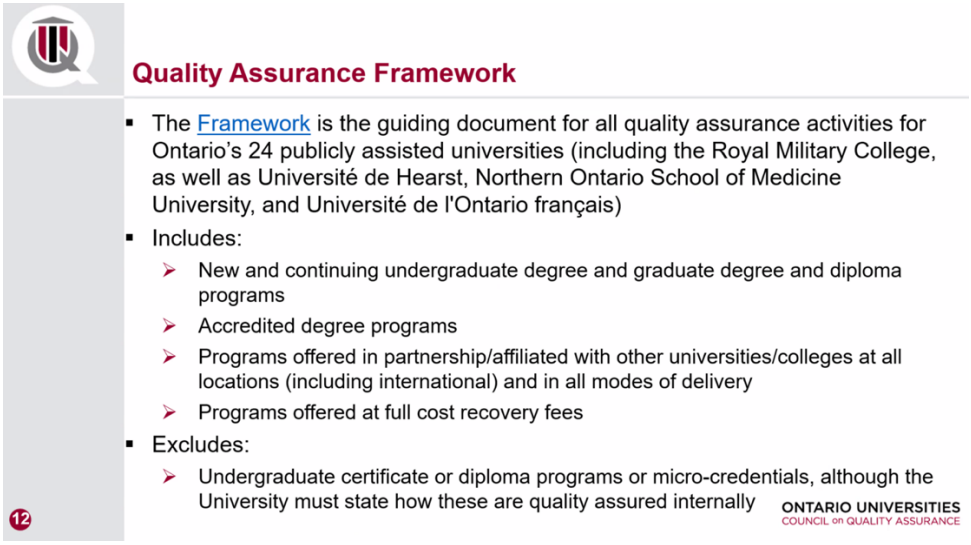
- The COU President's presentation to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs in January was positively received and elicited substantial earned media coverage.
- COU is working to develop a university-driven vision for the future in the context of various discussions and work underway on this topic by external organizations like the Business + Higher Education Roundtable (BHER) and Higher Education Strategy Associates (HESA).
- An outline of a paper was developed in collaboration with the Ontario Council of Academic Vice-Presidents (OCAV). The purpose of the paper, when finalized, will be to help guide internal discussions on what the future of higher education could look like and to support member participation in national dialogues.
- The paper will address the need for Ontario's postsecondary sector to evolve amid varying global pressures including AI and emerging technologies, globalization and geopolitics, economic transformation, social change and civic renewal, and climate change
- It will also highlight that universities drive talent, research and economic prosperity, and make major contributions to civil society.
- Key priorities include modernizing learning (e.g. redefining lifelong learning, AI-enabled teaching and assessment, future-ready skills), expanding work-integrated learning, strengthening research and industry partnerships, improving student supports, and innovating sustainability.
- The paper will also highlight that the financial sustainability of universities is a precursor to transformation, and that fostering Canada's competitiveness requires engagement from universities, different levels of government, and industry and community partners.

Feb. 11

Chris Evans, Executive Director, and Cindy Robinson, Director of Operations, Quality Assurance Secretariat, delivered a presentation which covered the role and importance of quality assurance at Ontario's universities and the key elements of the Quality Assurance Framework (QAF).

- The fact that they new programs are approved and agreed to, levels the playing field. Everyone can feel they are being assessed in the same way across institutions. And chemistry can feel it is treated the same way within an institution as Social Science etc.
- Quality Assurance is never static it is also about follow through and ongoing quality assurance which supports accountability.
- Helps promote the value of programs. Quality assurance has the best interest of students at the center.
- QAF—quality assurance framework. This is the framework the province uses.
    - The criteria was developed by the universities for the universities (not defined by province).
- Quality Assurance is a self-regulating system. Government's role is funding decisions. They wait to see the quality assurance outcome before making the decisions.
- Quality assurance has autonomy (different than something like OCT which does not have autonomy).
- QAF adopted by all the universities, they have all agreed they will meet at a minimum the QAF.
- But each institution develops its own description and processes of QAF, but they all fit into the minimum. For Ex. TMU doesn't have cyclical review it has a periodic review…
- The quality assurance provides oversight by an independent body.
    - While at arm's length, they can still impose sanctions and remediation when needed. One example is a university mothballed a program and brought it back 10 yrs later. QC determined that the information had changed so much and the knowledge fluid it needed to do a full review

Slides Describing the quality assurance process:



Quality Assurance Framework, continued

- First approved in April 2010
- Reviewed in 2018; revised version approved in 2021
- Each university must have a QC ratified Institutional Quality Assurance Processes (IQAP), which must minimally meet QAF standards
- Every IQAP includes protocols for:
  - New program approvals
  - Expedited approvals
  - Major modifications to existing programs
  - Cyclical review of existing programs
  - Audit Protocol
- All IQAPs were initially ratified by Quality Council in 2011
- IQAPs are revised periodically by universities and re-ratified by Quality Council
- All IQAPs were revised to align with revisions to 2021 QAF

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ONTARIO UNIVERSITIES COUNCIL on QUALITY ASSURANCE

The following slide is supposed to depict how much responsibility lies with the universities (mostly on the universities):

New Program Approval Process

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ONTARIO UNIVERSITIES COUNCIL on QUALITY ASSURANCE

During question and answer the following issues were brought up by COU members:

- the quality council presents barriers to us being nimble and responsive in the current context of needing to be responsive to the public.
- colleges and private universities don't have the same quality control putting us at an unfair disadvantage.
- The quality council needs its own external review.
  - They are in the midst of an external review and they asked the outside review to look at how they can streamline their processes.

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

Minutes of the Public Session of the February 24, 2026 Meeting
via Videoconference
2:32 p.m. - 4:20 p.m.

[Academic Council Committee Agendas, Materials and Minutes 2025-2026]

Present:

Steven Murphy (Chair)	Ana Duff	Scott Nokleby
Asifa Aamir	Mikael Eklund	Gabby Resch
JoAnne Arcand	Shanti Fernando	Aliza Rizwan
Rachel Ariss	Shahram Heydari	Carol Rodgers
Laura Banks	Jessica Hogue	Denina Simmons
Wendy Barber	Mehdi Hossein-Nejad	Gillian Slade
Mary Bluechardt	Sayyed Ali Hosseini	Peter Stoett
Rupinder Brar	Lori Livingston	Joe Stokes
Toba Bryant	Janet McCabe	Dwight Thompson
Krystina Clarke	Carolyn McGregor	Ken Wilson
Amanda Cooper	Pejman Mirza-Babaei	
Catherine Davidson	Fedor Naumkin	

Regrets:

Scott Aquanno	Brenda Jacobs	Robyn
Ahmad Barari	Les Jacobs	Ruttenberg-Rozen
Mihai Beligan	Venuga Kariharan	Jemma Tam
Mitch Frazer	Hossam Kishawy (on leave)	Shannon Vettor

Staff and Guests:

Kirstie Ayotte	Sandra Grouette	Jennifer MacInnis
Nicola Crow	(Secretary)	Brad MacIsaac
	Krista Hester	Sarah Thrush

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement

The Chair called the Public Session of the Academic Council (AC) Meeting to order at 2:32 p.m. and J. Arcand provided their personal Land Acknowledgement.

2. Agenda (M)

Upon a motion duly made by A. Cooper and seconded by S. Nokleby, the Agenda was approved as presented, including approving and receiving the Consent Agenda and its contents.

The Chair noted a request to have links to individual agenda items within the agenda as done previously.

3. Chair's Remarks

The Chair noted the recent provincial $6.4B post-secondary funding announcement, indicating that while welcome, its impact will be limited when distributed across 54 institutions over four years. He observed that the lifting of the tuition cap is a positive signal, though the 2% increase provides only modest additional revenue and does not address longer-standing funding pressures identified by the Blue Ribbon Panel. Work continues with the Ministry to clarify details related to new funding and opportunities, including those associated with STEM priorities.

The Chair also highlighted the University's national visibility through the unveiling of the next phase of Project Arrow at the 2026 Canadian International Auto Show. He further shared updates on national and international nuclear workforce initiatives, including outcomes from the recent Southeast Asia visit, noting strong demand for upskilling and reskilling partnerships in Canada and abroad.

The Chair provided an update on the University's AI learning agent pilot, now active in 22 courses, emphasizing its focus on privacy, academic integrity, and responsible AI development.

During discussion, the Chair provided additional context on the funding announcement and confirmed that pilot data is hosted with a Canadian partner. He noted that the initiative will be benchmarked against ISO standards, including human rights considerations. Questions related to faculty support for large language models were deferred to the Provost. The Chair also clarified that the naming of the previously approved School of AI rests with the leadership team working with the Provost, and that the group has adopted the name "School of AI." He supported a suggestion to showcase Project Arrow on campus.

4. Inquiries and Communications

None

5. Provost's Remarks

L. Livingston confirmed that the detailed, original School of Ethical AI proposal was presented to and approved by Academic Council. She further noted that as previously reported, the School's Institutional Leadership Team (ILT) would be tasked to review the School's name. She advised that following discussion, the ILT approved the new name in February. She confirmed that the School of Artificial Intelligence will not make curriculum decisions and that all programs will remain within their respective faculties.

L. Livingston also announced that Dr. Peter Stoett will conclude his term as Dean of the Faculty of Social Science and Humanities at week's end and thanked him for nine years of service. She advised that Dr. Thomas McMorrow will serve as Interim Dean effective March 1. L. Livingston reported that a call for expressions of interest for the Decanal Search Committee has been issued, and a search firm engaged. Once the Committee is established, she advised that timelines will be determined and regular updates will follow.

L. Livingston also noted several upcoming March events recognizing faculty, staff, and student achievements, including the Three-Minute Thesis competition, the Teaching Conference and Celebration of Teaching Awards, Athletic Awards, and Student Leadership Awards.

Finally, she invited S. Thrush to provide an update on the tuition framework previously presented to Academic Council following the recent provincial funding announcement. S. Thrush shared

that the University plans to apply the recently announced 2% tuition increase, which is now reflected in the recommendations going to the Board for approval. She also reported that multiyear planning will follow once funding impacts are better known. In relation to student supports, given the tuition increase and OSAP changes, she noted that the University continues to exceed required financial aid set asides and plans to continue this commitment. L. Livingston also referenced the wide-range of Ontario Tech's fundraising efforts which provide targeted supports for our students.

During an ensuing discussion, there was further dialogue on the School of AI, its establishment, name and purview, with L. Livingston reiterating that the School of AI has no program or curriculum authority and its website will be updated to ensure clarity in terminology and language. The Chair confirmed that the Interim Dean appointment followed required Board processes. It was also clarified that the AI learning agent pilot uses only instructor-approved materials. L. Livingston advised that a cross-unit working group, including the Secretariat, is actively reviewing academic integrity across the Institution, including AI use. She further highlighted the need for alternate assessment approaches, with the Teaching and Learning Centre playing a key role in providing supports and guidance in this regard.

6. Student Recruitment, Success, and Retention*(D)

L. Livingston reported that this year's update focuses on key strategic priorities, emphasizing intensified domestic recruitment efforts in response to federal measures affecting international enrollment, and acknowledged the strong performance of the Registrar's Office, faculty, students and staff in attracting domestic students. She advised that international recruitment strategies are being adjusted to maintain market presence despite current constraints. In addition to recruitment, she shared that the University is prioritizing student retention through enhanced academic advising, Teaching and Learning Centre initiatives, and expanded Student Learning Support, as outlined in the accompanying briefing materials.

There was discussion regarding the important contributions of campus libraries, faculty, teaching assistants and staff to student learning, success, and retention. It was also underscored that everyone plays a role in this work with specific appreciation expressed to library staff. Personal accountability was also noted as being embedded across Student Learning Support programs.

7. Enrollment Update* (I)

S. Thrush reported on the University's 2025-2026 enrollment performance and its context within differentiated growth 2.0 which was taking the University to 20,000 students by 2030. She shared that enrollment has grown by more than 1,400 students, with an 8.8% intake increase supported by gains across undergraduate and graduate programs, improved retention, and balanced international enrollment notwithstanding the challenges in this regard. She advised that enrollment projections highlight steady growth in traditional pathways and future potential from innovative and non-traditional program models, with projections monitored regularly to balance strategic goals and budget planning.

J. Stokes presented system-level application trends, noting that the University continues to outperform the provincial system and key competitors in overall application growth across both high-school and non-high-school cohorts. Provincial data show significant system-wide declines for a second year in computer science, software engineering, IT, and communications likely influenced by AI-related labour-market uncertainty with some institutions experiencing substantial losses. While the University has also seen decreases in these areas, its broader

program mix has driven overall applications to their highest level to date. He shared that other universities may lower admissions averages in programs with available capacity to offset declines, underscoring the need for continued focused recruitment and admissions efforts.

L. Livingston noted that the recent provincial funding announcement, while positive, does not address long-term sector instability and so Ontario Tech must continue prioritizing enrollment growth, enhancing retention, strengthening program quality, and leveraging community partnerships. The Chair also highlighted the University's stronger position relative to peers is attributed to sustained growth in recent years, and continued growth remains essential under the current funding model to avoid workforce or program reductions seen elsewhere.

In response to some clarification being sought on the meaning of "differentiated growth" and "differentiated growth 2.0," as well as how projected enrollment increases relate to resourcing, L. Livingston emphasized the longstanding differentiated growth strategy to grow student numbers with the growth approach varying by Faculty based on program opportunities. She noted that differentiated growth 2.0 had been discussed at various townhalls and reiterated that "2.0" reflects an expanded approach that includes new instructional modes, flexible scheduling beyond traditional term structures, and strategies to attract learners beyond the domestic high-school market. She also confirmed that the University will continue its practice of aligning resources with enrollment growth.

8. Undergraduate Studies Committee

M. Bluechardt provided the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) report from the USC's January meeting. She reported that the USC continued its work to support program innovation driven by student needs. She advised that updates to academic programs were presented to ensure continued alignment with industry trends and best practices, while strengthening student pathways, flexibility, and career readiness. She also noted that USC received several items related to administrative and curricular housekeeping to support best practices.

8.1 Major Program Modification: Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Mechanical Engineering – Aerospace Specialization* (M)

M. Bluechardt shared that the proposed aerospace specialization responds to expressed student interest and will expand student options within the program. The specialization replaces four existing electives with four specialized aerospace courses. She noted that this will also enable the Faculty to assess the potential for a standalone aerospace program.

Upon a motion duly made by M. Eklund and seconded by S. Nokleby, that pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modification to introduce an Aerospace Specialization within the Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Mechanical Engineering program.

8.2 Major Program Modification: Faculty of Health Sciences: Bachelor of Health Science (Hons) in Kinesiology – Fitness and Health Promotion Pathway* (M)

M. Bluechardt shared an update on the proposed bridge structure, which is intended to increase applications by enabling students to complete the program in two years instead of three, thereby broadening the prospective applicant pool.

Upon a motion duly made by M. Bluechardt and seconded by K. Wilson, that pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves

the Major Program Modification to the Bachelor of Health Science (Hons) in Kinesiology – Fitness and Health Promotion Pathway, creating a Bridge structure for Durham College graduates.

8.3 Major Program Modification: Faculty of Social Science and Humanities: Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Legal Studies – Teesside LLB Pathway* (M)

M. Bluechardt presented an expansion to the previously approved pathway by adding the University of Aberdeen as a partner, and a renaming to the UK LLB Pathway. Under the updated structure, students with the highest GPAs may now choose to pursue their studies at either the University of Aberdeen or Teesside University.

Upon a motion duly made by P. Stoett and seconded by M. Bluechardt, that pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modification to add the University of Aberdeen as a new institutional partner to the Honours Legal Studies – Teesside LLB pathway and amend the pathway title to the UK LLB pathway.

8.4 Major Program Modification: Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Software Engineering* (M)

M. Bluechardt shared that the proposal adds a railway engineering specialization to software engineering by replacing existing electives with four railway-focused courses, consistent with offerings in other engineering programs. It also replaces the program-specific capstone with a common multidisciplinary capstone model aligned with industry practice, supporting collaboration across all engineering programs.

Upon a motion duly made by S. Nokleby and seconded by D. Thompson, that pursuant to the recommendation of the Undergraduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modification to the Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Software Engineering to introduce a new Railway Engineering Specialization and to make additional changes to upper-year offerings within the main program and the Internet of Things specialization.

9. Graduate Studies Committee

P. Mirza-Babaei provided the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) Report from the GSC's January meeting, which included information on upcoming opportunities for doctoral and postdoctoral training awards.

9.1 Major Program Modification: Faculty of Business and IT: Master of Business Analytics and Artificial Intelligence* (M)

P. Mirza-Babaei provided an overview of the Master of Business Analytics and Artificial Intelligence proposal which added new focus areas in AI governance, supply chain and entrepreneurship in response to industry needs. He noted there were no major structural changes with this proposal which aligned with the University's strategic focus on responsible AI and differentiated growth. He advised that the revisions include additional elective options and fewer core courses.

Upon a motion duly made by P. Mirza-Babaei and seconded by S. Fernando, that pursuant to the recommendation of the Graduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modification to the Master of Business Analytics and Artificial Intelligence program to establish three new fields in AI Governance, Supply Chain, and Entrepreneurship.

In response to a question regarding resources, it was confirmed that no additional resources are required to implement the program changes.

10. Research Committee

10.1 Office of Research Services Executive Report* (D)

J. Freeman provided the office of Research Services Executive Report on behalf of L. Jacobs. She shared an update on current research chair activity, including the launch of the Internal Research Excellence Chairs program and ongoing recruitment for several major external federal chair programs. Updates were also provided on tri-agency policy changes related to clinical trial disclosure, open access requirements, responsible conduct of research including the availability of research ethics training modules, ongoing licensing and public engagement process for the subcritical nuclear assembly, and the recruitment for a new Research Ethics Board (REB) Chair.

J. Freeman advised that the University is trending ahead of last year in research funding, supported by provincial and federal investment increases, including the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI). She also highlighted federal warnings on research security, including risks associated with certain foreign-sourced technologies and collaborations.

In response to a question, J. Freeman also shared that to ensure broad faculty awareness, Research Services disseminates information through a listserv, Research Committee, workshops, social media channels, and regular updates to the institutional website.

11. Consent Agenda:

The Chair confirmed that contents of the Consent Agenda were approved and received under Agenda Item # 2.

11.1 Public Minutes of the January 27, 2026 Meeting* (M)

11.2 Minor Program Adjustments from USC* (I)

(i) Faculty of Business and IT: Bachelor of Commerce Co-Operative Education* (I)
(ii) Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Energy Engineering* (I)
(iii) Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science: Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Nuclear Engineering* (I)
(iv) Faculty of Health Sciences: Bachelor of Health Administration (Hons)* (I)
(v) Faculty of Health Sciences: Bachelor of Health Sciences (Hons) in Kinesiology* (I)
(vi) Faculty of Health Sciences: Bachelor of Science in Nursing (Hons) and RPN to BScN – Advanced Entry* (I)

12. Other Business

In response to a question regarding the 20,000 student target, it was explained that the higher figure reflects projected growth through non-traditional and innovative delivery models, including programmatic changes, regional upskilling and reskilling opportunities, and expansion in course-based master's programs, with the target based on student numbers.

13. Termination

There being no other business, and upon a motion to terminate by S. Nokleby, the AC Meeting terminated at 4:20 p.m.

Sandra Grouette, Assistant University Secretary

ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation	☐
Decision	☐
Discussion/Direction	☐
Information	☒

DATE: **24 March 2026**

FROM: **Undergraduate Studies Committee**

SUBJECT: **Minor Program Adjustment – Automotive Engineering, Automotive Engineering – Railway Engineering specialization, Industrial Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering – Artificial Intelligence specialization, Mechanical Engineering – Energy Engineering specialization, Mechanical Engineering – Railway Engineering specialization,**

COMMITTEE MANDATE:
In accordance with the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) Terms of Reference, USC has the responsibility "to approve minor program adjustments and report them to Academic Council for information."

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:
The Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science proposed changes to the Automotive Engineering, Automotive Engineering – Railway Engineering specialization, Industrial Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering – Artificial Intelligence specialization, Mechanical Engineering – Energy Engineering specialization, Mechanical Engineering – Railway Engineering specialization programs to replace the current program-specific capstone systems-design courses with two common capstone systems-design courses for all engineering programs. The introduction of common capstone courses further strengthens the student experience by enabling multi-disciplinary design teams that more closely mirror industry practice, while also improving consistency in course delivery and learning across all engineering programs.

The change to create a common first year, approved at Academic Council on January 27, 2026, resulted in the reduction of total credit hours across the programs and are reflected with the capstone changes.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:
No additional resources required. The changes will allow better utilization of resources with the reduction from ten (10) courses to two (2) different courses that are common to all programs.

TRANSITION AND COMMUNICATION PLAN:
The new common capstone structure will take effect in the 2026–2027 academic year; any current students who have not yet completed their existing capstone sequence will transition to the two new common capstone systems design courses. Engineering Advising will notify students of these capstone changes through direct email communication.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:
- ✓ Engineering Curriculum Committee: 18 September 2025
- ✓ Faculty Council: 25 September 2025
- ✓ Undergraduate Studies Committee (for approval): 17 February 2026
- Academic Council (for information): 24 March 2026

NEXT STEPS:
After presentation to Academic Council, this change will be included in the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:
- Minor Program Adjustment:
  - Automotive Engineering
  - Automotive Engineering – Railway Engineering specialization
  - Industrial Engineering
  - Mechanical Engineering
  - Mechanical Engineering – Artificial Intelligence specialization
  - Mechanical Engineering – Energy Engineering specialization
  - Mechanical Engineering – Railway Engineering specialization
- New course(s): ENGR 4111U, ENGR 4222U

ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation	☐
Decision	☐
Discussion/Direction	☐
Information	☒

DATE: **24 March 2026**

FROM: **Undergraduate Studies Committee**

SUBJECT: **Minor Program Adjustment – Electrical Engineering and Electrical Engineering – Smart Grid specialization**

COMMITTEE MANDATE:
In accordance with the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) Terms of Reference, USC has the responsibility "to approve minor program adjustments and report them to Academic Council for information."

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:
The Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science proposed changes in the Electrical Engineering, Electrical Engineering – Smart Grid Specialization programs as follows:

- Replace the current program specific capstone systems design courses with two common capstone systems design courses for all engineering programs. The introduction of common capstone courses further strengthens the student experience by enabling multi-disciplinary design teams that more closely mirror industry practice, while also improving consistency in course delivery and learning across all engineering programs.
- Editorial update to total credit hours in the programs resulting from previously approved changes to the common first year.
- Expand elective options to include the Railway Engineering specialization courses in the list of approved electives in the Electrical Engineering and Electrical Engineering – Smart Grid Specialization programs.
- Move two mandatory courses in the Electrical Engineering – Smart Grid Specialization, and the corresponding Engineering and Management program, to

the Fall term in order to help students gain the necessary technical knowledge in time to start their Capstone projects.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:
No additional resources required. The capstone changes will allow better utilization of resources with the reduction from ten (10) courses to two (2) different courses that are common to all programs.

TRANSITION AND COMMUNICATION PLAN:
The changes are to be implemented starting Fall 2026. Any current students who have not yet completed their existing capstone sequence will transition to the two new common capstone systems design courses.

Fall 2023 cohort and later: students will follow the new program map.

Communications to students will be made via the FEAS Academic Advising Office.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:
- ✓ Engineering Curriculum Committee (capstone): 18 September 2025
- ✓ Faculty Council (capstone): 25 September 2025
- ✓ Engineering Curriculum Committee: 20 November 2025
- ✓ Faculty Council: 29 January 2026
- ✓ Undergraduate Studies Committee (for approval): 17 February 2026
- Academic Council (for information): 24 March 2026

NEXT STEPS:
After presentation to Academic Council, this change will be included in the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:
- Minor Program Adjustment:
  - Electrical Engineering
  - Electrical Engineering – Smart Grid Specialization
- New course(s): ENGR 4111U, ENGR 4222U

ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation	☐
Decision	☐
Discussion/Direction	☐
Information	☒

DATE: **24 March 2026**

FROM: **Undergraduate Studies Committee**

SUBJECT: **Minor Program Adjustment – Manufacturing Engineering and Manufacturing Engineering – Railway Engineering specialization**

COMMITTEE MANDATE:
In accordance with the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) Terms of Reference, USC has the responsibility "to approve minor program adjustments and report them to Academic Council for information."

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:
The Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science proposed the following changes to the Manufacturing Engineering and Manufacturing Engineering – Railway Engineering Specialization programs:

- Replace the current program specific capstone systems design courses with two common capstone systems design courses for all engineering programs. The introduction of common capstone courses further strengthens the student experience by enabling multi-disciplinary design teams that more closely mirror industry practice, while also improving consistency in course delivery and learning across all engineering programs.

- Editorial update to total credit hours in the programs resulting from previously approved changes to the common first year.

- Modify offerings and sequencing in Year 3 and 4, enabling students to further engage in taking minors and electives.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:
No additional resources required. The changes will allow better utilization of resources with the reduction from ten (10) courses to two (2) different courses that are common to all programs.

TRANSITION AND COMMUNICATION PLAN:
The changes will take effect in the 2026–2027 academic year. Any current students who have not yet completed their existing capstone sequence will transition to the two new common capstone systems design courses. Engineering Advising will notify students of these capstone changes through direct email communication.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:
- ✓ Engineering Curriculum Committee (capstone): 18 September 2025
- ✓ Faculty Council (capstone): 25 September 2025
- ✓ Engineering Curriculum Committee: 22 January 2026
- ✓ Faculty Council: 29 January 2026
- ✓ Undergraduate Studies Committee (for approval): 17 February 2026
- Academic Council (for information): 24 March 2026

NEXT STEPS:
After presentation to Academic Council, this change will be included in the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:
- Minor Program Adjustment:
  - Manufacturing Engineering
  - Manufacturing Engineering – Railway Engineering Specialization
- New course(s): ENGR 4111U, ENGR 4222U

ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation	☐
Decision	☐
Discussion/Direction	☐
Information	☒

DATE: **24 March 2026**

FROM: **Undergraduate Studies Committee**

SUBJECT: **Minor Program Adjustment – Mechatronics Engineering, Mechatronics Engineering – Artificial Intelligence specialization and Mechatronics Engineering – Railway Engineering specialization**

COMMITTEE MANDATE:
In accordance with the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) Terms of Reference, USC has the responsibility "to approve minor program adjustments and report them to Academic Council for information."

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:
The Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science proposed changes to the Mechatronics Engineering, Mechatronics Engineering – Artificial Intelligence specialization and Mechatronics Engineering – Railway Engineering specialization including:

- Replace the current program specific capstone systems design courses with two common capstone systems design courses for all engineering programs. The introduction of common capstone courses further strengthens the student experience by enabling multi-disciplinary design teams that more closely mirror industry practice, while also improving consistency in course delivery and learning across all engineering programs.

- Editorial update to total credit hours in the programs resulting from previously approved changes to the common first year.

- Update Year 3 offerings, including the addition two new courses.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:
No additional resources required. The capstone changes will allow better utilization of resources with the reduction from ten (10) courses to two (2) different courses that are common to all programs. The update to Year 3 offerings results in a net reduction of one course which reduces the overall cost of program delivery.

TRANSITION AND COMMUNICATION PLAN:
The new common capstone structure will take effect in the 2026–2027 academic year; any current students who have not yet completed their existing capstone sequence will transition to the two new common capstone systems design courses.

Students who started Fall 2023 or earlier will stay on the existing third year program map unless a student has not started third year, in which case they will follow the new program map. Students who started Fall 2024 and onwards will follow the new program map. Students who have already completed one or more of the courses removed from the engineering elective list prior to the Fall 2026 semester will have those courses still count as engineering electives.

Communications to students will be made via the FEAS Academic Advising Office.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:
- ✓ Engineering Curriculum Committee (capstone): 18 September 2025
- ✓ Faculty Council (capstone): 25 September 2025
- ✓ Engineering Curriculum Committee: 18 December 2025
- ✓ Faculty Council: 29 January 2026
- ✓ Undergraduate Studies Committee (for approval): 17 February 2026
- Academic Council (for information): 24 March 2026

NEXT STEPS:
After presentation to Academic Council, this change will be included in the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:
- Minor Program Adjustment:
  - Mechatronics Engineering
  - Mechatronics Engineering – Artificial Intelligence specialization
  - Mechatronics Engineering – Railway Engineering specialization
- New course(s): ENGR 4111U, ENGR 4222U, METE 3300U, METE 3400U
- Course change(s): METE 4280U, METE 4300U, METE 4350U, METE 4500U

ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation	☐
Decision	☐
Discussion/Direction	☐
Information	☒

DATE: **24 March 2026**

FROM: **Undergraduate Studies Committee**

SUBJECT: **Minor Program Adjustment – Co-operative Education in the Faculty of Science**

COMMITTEE MANDATE:
In accordance with the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) Terms of Reference, USC has the responsibility "to approve minor program adjustments and report them to Academic Council for information."

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:
The Faculty of Science proposed adjustments to clean up the calendar entry for Co-operative Education by changing the language to clarify information already in place.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:
No additional resources required.

TRANSITION PLAN:
Students will receive guidance from Academic Advising.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:
- ✓ Curriculum Committee: 8 January 2026
- ✓ Faculty Council: 13 January 2026
- ✓ Undergraduate Studies Committee (for approval): 17 February 2026
- • Academic Council (for information): 24 March 2026

NEXT STEPS:
After presentation to Academic Council, this change will be included in the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:
Minor Program Adjustment:

- Co-operative Education in the Faculty of Science

ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation	☐
Decision	☐
Discussion/Direction	☐
Information	☒

DATE: **24 March 2026**

FROM: **Undergraduate Studies Committee**

SUBJECT: **Minor Program Adjustment – Bachelor of Arts and Science (Hons), Sustainability**

COMMITTEE MANDATE:
In accordance with the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) Terms of Reference, USC has the responsibility "to approve minor program adjustments and report them to Academic Council for information."

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:
The Faculty of Science, along with co-host Faculties including Engineering and Applied Science, Health Sciences, and Social Science and Humanities, proposed the addition of the Faculty of Business and Information Technology as a co-host Faculty, the replacement of INDG 2000U with INDG 1000U, and minor changes to the approved elective list.

Adding FBIT as a co-host will enhance the student experience by incorporating FBIT perspective into the program, including newly developed elective courses and capstone opportunities.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:
No additional resources required.

TRANSITION PLAN:
Students will receive guidance from Academic Advising.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:

- ✓ FSci Curriculum Committee: 17 November 2025
- ✓ FSci Faculty Council: 2 December 2025
- ✓ FHSc Faculty Council: 7 January 2026
- ✓ FSSH Faculty Council: 28 January 2026
- ✓ FEAS Faculty Council: 29 January 2026
- ✓ FBIT Faculty Council: 3 February 2026
- ✓ Undergraduate Studies Committee (for approval): 17 February 2026
- Academic Council (for information): 24 March 2026

Consultation occurred with FBIT faculty members. The FBIT Dean will appoint a point person to the Sustainability committee.

NEXT STEPS:

After presentation to Academic Council, this change will be included in the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- Minor Program Adjustment

ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation	☐
Decision	☐
Discussion/Direction	☐
Information	☒

DATE: **24 March 2026**

FROM: **Undergraduate Studies Committee**

SUBJECT: **Minor Program Adjustment – Entrepreneurship Minor**

COMMITTEE MANDATE:
In accordance with the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) Terms of Reference, USC has the responsibility “to approve minor program adjustments and report them to Academic Council for information.”

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:
There are presently two entrepreneurship minor options - one is for FBIT students and the other is designed for students in all other programs at Ontario Tech. In order to better align with student program maps, the Faculty has adjusted the FBIT student option to be exclusive to Bachelor of Commerce students. Bachelor of Information Technology students interested in the minor will now follow the same map as all other students.

BUSI 2311U - Organizational Behaviour will also replace BUSI 2000U as a core course requirement of the Entrepreneurship minor for students outside the Business Commerce program as it provides a broader skill set and is a more appropriate selection for students outside of the Commerce program.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:
No additional resources are required.

TRANSITION AND COMMUNICATION PLAN:
Commerce students currently enrolled in the Entrepreneurship Minor will not be affected by this change. Students currently enrolled in the Entrepreneurship Minor outside Commerce will adhere to their entry year program map and thus wouldn't be affected by

these changes. As the changes are not retroactive, current students will not need to be informed of the new program/degree requirements. New students will follow the academic calendar for their program, which will house these new changes.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:

- ✓ Curriculum Committee: 20 January 2026
- ✓ Faculty Council: 3 February 2026
- ✓ Undergraduate Studies Committee (for approval): 17 February 2026
- Academic Council (for information): 24 March 2026

NEXT STEPS:

After presentation to Academic Council, this change will be presented for information to Academic Council and included in the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- Entrepreneurship minor for Bachelor of Commerce students
- Entrepreneurship minor for students outside Bachelor of Commerce

ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation	☐
Decision	☐
Discussion/Direction	☐
Information	☒

DATE: **24 March 2026**

FROM: **Undergraduate Studies Committee**

SUBJECT: **Minor Program Adjustment – Bachelor of Education – Primary/Junior and Intermediate/Senior options**

COMMITTEE MANDATE:
In accordance with the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) Terms of Reference, USC has the responsibility "to approve minor program adjustments and report them to Academic Council for information."

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:
The Faculty is updating calendar language to provide clarification on the current practices of the Faculty in the administration of the program. Proposed changes include:

- Adjusting language to clarify the minimum required average for Consecutive applicants as "B (73 to 76 per cent or 3.0 GPA) in their best 10 full-year or best 20 half-year courses completed";
- Adjusting language to clarify that Concurrent applicants must possess the GPA referenced in their offer letters in place of the 3.3 previously referenced;
- Clarifying that failure of a Foundations course will not result in automatic removal from the program;
- Removing the requirement that all B.Ed courses be successfully completed with minimum B (73-76 percent) grades.
- Removing language regarding mandatory attendance and the related possibility of cancelling field experience or removal from the program; issues will now be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:
No additional resources are required.

TRANSITION AND COMMUNICATION PLAN:
Functionally, the above changes have been in place for several years (competitive Concurrent GPA, allowing students to remain in the program despite failed Practicum, etc.), so no transition plan is required. Students will be informed of these changes through the academic calendar and academic advising.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:
- ✓ Curriculum Committee: 14 January 2026
- ✓ Faculty Council: 5 February 2026
- ✓ Undergraduate Studies Committee (for approval): 17 February 2026
- Academic Council (for information): 24 March 2026

NEXT STEPS:
After presentation to Academic Council, these changes will be presented for information to Academic Council and included in the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:
- Minor Program Adjustment proposal (B.Ed P/J)
- Minor Program Adjustment proposal (B.Ed I/S)

ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation	☐
Decision	☐
Discussion/Direction	☐
Information	☒

DATE: **24 March 2026**

FROM: **Undergraduate Studies Committee**

SUBJECT: **Minor Program Adjustment – Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Criminology and Justice**

COMMITTEE MANDATE:
In accordance with the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) Terms of Reference, USC has the responsibility "to approve minor program adjustments and report them to Academic Council for information."

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:
LGLS 1000U has been added as a required course for the program as it is a prerequisite for CRMN 2010U and CRMN 2050U which are components of three of the program's specializations. The change will ensure that students have the necessary courses in place in their first year to pursue these specializations. PSYC 1000U is being added as a required course for the Youth Justice specialization as it is a pre-requisite for PSYC 2010U, a required course within the specialization.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:
No additional resources are required.

TRANSITION AND COMMUNICATION PLAN:
Current students will follow the existing program map; new students will be required to follow the updated program map. This information will be communicated through the academic calendar and academic advising.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:
- ✓ Curriculum Committee: 21 January 2026

- ✓ Faculty Council: 28 January 2026
- ✓ Undergraduate Studies Committee (for approval): 17 February 2026
- Academic Council (for information): 24 March 2026

NEXT STEPS:
After presentation to Academic Council, this change will be presented for information to Academic Council and included in the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:
- Minor Program Adjustment proposal

ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation	☐
Decision	☐
Discussion/Direction	☐
Information	☒

DATE: **24 March 2026**

FROM: **Graduate Studies Committee**

SUBJECT: **Minor Program Adjustment – Electrical and Computer Engineering, MASc/MEng/PhD**

COMMITTEE MANDATE:
In accordance with the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) Terms of Reference, GSC has the responsibility "to approve minor program adjustments" and report them to Academic Council for information.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:
The Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science proposed the addition of three new course options to the graduate Electrical and Computer Engineering programs. These courses collectively strengthen graduate offerings in modern power and energy systems by addressing critical industry and research needs. ENGR 5996G: Transportation Electrification equips students with advanced knowledge in electric and plug-in hybrid vehicle technologies, preparing them for rapidly evolving automotive and power engineering sectors. ENGR 5997G: Modelling and Control of Power Converters directly supports graduate research and enhances students' competitiveness in industry by providing essential skills for power converter design. Additionally, ENGR 5675G: AI-Enabled Smart Grid Systems Engineering, previously offered only as a special topics course, merits formalization as a regular course to ensure consistent access and meet the strong student demand in this emerging area.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:
No additional resources required. The new courses are being added as optional selections within the program's course listing.

TRANSITION PLAN:
Effective for Fall 2026. Graduate Engineering Program Office will communicate this change to students.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:
- ✓ FEAS Graduate Committee: 18 December 2025
- ✓ FEAS Faculty Council: 29 January 2026
- ✓ Graduate Studies Committee (Approval): 24 February 2026
- Academic Council (Information): 24 March 2026

NEXT STEPS:
After presentation to Academic Council, this change will be included in the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:
Minor Program Adjustments:
- Electrical and Computer Engineering, MASc
- Electrical and Computer Engineering, MEng
- Electrical and Computer Engineering, PhD

New Course(s): ENGR 5996G, ENGR 5997G, ENGR 5675G

ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation	☐
Decision	☐
Discussion/Direction	☐
Information	☒

DATE: **24 March 2026**

FROM: **Graduate Studies Committee**

SUBJECT: **Minor Program Adjustment – Nuclear Design Engineering, Graduate Diploma**

COMMITTEE MANDATE:
In accordance with the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) Terms of Reference, GSC has the responsibility "to approve minor program adjustments" and report them to Academic Council for information.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:
The Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science proposed to replace the core NUCL 5120G Nuclear Plant Design course with NUCL 5010G Project Management for Nuclear Engineers, and to move NUCL 5120G to the elective list.

Industry feedback supports NUCL 5010G Project Management for Nuclear Engineers being offered as a core course. Additional new case study examples have been added to the course.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:
No additional resources required. Anticipate additional revenue path under proposed change.

TRANSITION PLAN:
Effective for Fall 2026. FEAS Graduate Engineering Office will communicate this update to students.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:

- ✓ ENE Department Graduate Committee: 9 January 2026
- ✓ ENE Department Council: 15 January 2026
- ✓ FEAS Graduate Studies Committee: 22 January 2026
- ✓ FEAS Faculty Council: 29 January 2026
- ✓ Graduate Studies Committee (Approval): 24 February 2026
- Academic Council (Information): 24 March 2026

NEXT STEPS:

After presentation to Academic Council, this change will be included in the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

Minor Program Adjustment: Nuclear Design Engineering, Graduate Diploma

ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation	☐
Decision	☐
Discussion/Direction	☐
Information	☒

DATE: **24 March 2026**

FROM: **Graduate Studies Committee**

SUBJECT: **Minor Program Adjustment – Software Engineering, MASc and MEng**

COMMITTEE MANDATE:
In accordance with the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) Terms of Reference, GSC has the responsibility "to approve minor program adjustments" and report them to Academic Council for information.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:
The Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science proposed the introduction of a new course option, ENGR 5675 AI-Enabled Smart Grid Systems Engineering, which was previously offered as a special topic within the graduate Software Engineering programs. There has also been strong student interest in the subject matter, further supporting the need for this new course offering.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:
No additional resources required. The new course is being added as an optional selection within the program's course listing.

TRANSITION PLAN:
Effective for Fall 2026. FEAS Graduate Engineering Office will communicate this update to students.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:
- ✓ ECSE Department Graduate Committee: 8 January 2026
- ✓ ECSE Department Council: 15 January 2026
- ✓ FEAS Graduate Studies Committee: 22 January 2026
- ✓ FEAS Faculty Council: 29 January 2026

- ✓ Graduate Studies Committee (Approval): 24 February 2026
- Academic Council (Information): 24 March 2026

NEXT STEPS:
After presentation to Academic Council, this change will be included in the 2026-2027 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:
Minor Program Adjustment(s):
- Software Engineering, MASc
- Software Engineering, MEng

New course(s): ENGR 5675G

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation	☐
Decision	☐
Discussion/Direction	☐
Information	☒

DATE: **24 March 2026**

FROM: **Graduate Studies Committee**

SUBJECT: **Cyclical Program Review - 18-Month Follow-up – Modelling and Computational Science, PhD and MSc**

COMMITTEE MANDATE:

In accordance with Article 8 of the Ontario Tech University Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP) Cyclical Review and Auditing Procedures, eighteen months following the completion of a program review the Dean will prepare a brief follow up report and "A summary of the progress report will be approved by the appropriate standing committee of Academic Council". This summary report will be reported to Academic Council for information and subsequently posted to the Ontario Tech corporate website.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

Eighteen months after the completion of a program review the Faculty is asked to report on the progress to date in implementing the agreed upon plans for improvement. The report is sent to the Academic Resource Committee for review and further follow-up, if required.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

The Faculty's plans to address any remaining resource needs are outlined in the 18-Month report. Information and support will be required from various areas of the University in order to implement the plan as originally agreed.

COMPLIANCE WITH POLICY/LEGISLATION:

The Ontario Universities Council on Quality Assurance (Quality Council), established by the Council of Ontario Universities in July 2010, is responsible for oversight of the Quality Assurance Framework processes for Ontario Universities. The Council operates at arm's length from both Ontario's publicly assisted universities and Ontario's government. Under the Quality Assurance Framework, academic programs must undergo a cyclical review at least every eight years following their implementation. The purpose of the cyclical program review is to critically examine the components of a program with the assistance of outside reviewers with the goal of continuous improvement. A program review's purpose is not solely to demonstrate the positive

aspects of the program, but also to outline opportunities that will lead to improvements for the future.

NEXT STEPS:
Following the presentation to Academic Council, this summary will be posted to the University website.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- 18-Month Report Summary

18-MONTH FOLLOW-UP REPORT
Cyclical Program Review

FACULTY: **Faculty of Science**
PROGRAM: **MSc and PhD in Modelling and Computational Science**
DATE: **January 15, 2026**
PREPARED BY: **Dr. Ken Wilson**

Under Ontario Tech University's Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP) and the Ontario Quality Assurance Framework (QAF), all programs are subject to a comprehensive review at least/at minimum every eight years to ensure that they continue to meet provincial quality assurance requirements and to support their ongoing rigour and coherence. Program reviews involve several stages, including:

1. A comprehensive and analytical self-study brief developed by members of the program under review.
2. A site visit by academic experts who are external to and arm's length from the program. The visit involves discussions with senior academic administrators, faculty, staff, and students.
3. Submission of an external reviewers' report including recommendations on ways the program may be improved based on a review of the program's self-study brief, discussions during the site visit and supporting material.
4. Internal responses to the external review and recommendations prepared separately by the Program and Dean.
5. Development of an Implementation Plan prepared by the Dean including resource requirements and a timeline for acting on and monitoring the implementation of the recommendations.

All programs that undergo a review must provide a report eighteen months after the completion of the review to gather information on the progress that has been made implementing the agreed upon plans for improvement.

In 2021-2023, a review was scheduled for the Master of Science (MSc) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Modelling and Computational Science with a site visit on April 17-18, 2024**.** The program has submitted to the Provost's Office a report outlining the progress they have made relative to the implementation plan resulting from the review. A summary of this progress is provided on the following pages.

Implementation Plan Action Item(s)		Timeline	Status*	Comments from Dean on progress of implementation
1.	RECOMMENDATION: Increase graduate student funding (paying attention to international students), so that funding levels are in line with other research-intensive universities in southern Ontario and take into account the cost of living in the GTA area. ACTION: Monitor progress of graduate funding initiative within the new external fundraising campaign.	Annual reviews are made of graduate student funding	Continuous	We do the best we can regarding financial support for graduate students in the MCSC program. Note, that the MCSC faculty have agreed to increase the GRA for their students over the University-mandated minimum to ensure each funding package totals at least $20K. Faculty support students via graduate research assistantships from their NSERC Discovery Grants and other funding sources. However, the amounts provided to PIs have not increased in line with inflation. Faculty members do look for other funding opportunities, but these can be limited in both scope, amount, and duration. The TA support provided has increased due to the collective bargaining process with PSAC but not enough to make a meaningful difference in the total support package. SGPS is currently reviewing internal scholarship programs and we expect the new system to offer more flexibility,

				allowing us to optimize the usage of internal funding. Monitoring will continue.
2.	RECOMMENDATION: Hire a tenure-track statistician/biostatistician. ACTION: Pursue potential for a CRC hire in bioinformatics (a collaborative approach)	No anticipated target date	On hold	The CRC proposal for a bioinformatics hire was not successful but remains on our "wish list." A TTT statistician/biostatistician for the mathematics unit is not on our proposed list of faculty hires, we are working on an appointment in Forensic Sciences that may have some Biostatistics overlap.
3.	RECOMMENDATION: Develop preparatory courses or resources to address disparities in programming and foundational mathematics skills among incoming students, ensuring all students have a strong foundation for success. ACTION: Subcommittee of Steering Committee to draft a course proposal	Fall 2027	Continuous	One of the most challenging aspects of the program to many incoming students is the rigor of the scientific programming. We have developed a module for incoming students to study early in their tenure. Similarly, we are working on a module on statistics. Whether such modules can be grown into for-credit courses depends on the number of incoming students in need of foundational courses in upcoming years.
4.	RECOMMENDATION: Increase the breadth of courses in the books (all of which need not be offered on a regular basis), some of these would be available and offered when there is sufficient demand. Course breadth can also be achieved	Winter 2026	Complete	Because the MCSC program has a relatively low enrolment (10 students as of Jan 2026), we took an alternate approach to this recommendation. Rather than add several classes to our course list and offering them on an irregular schedule, we have several Topics Courses on the books (for example:

	through joint offerings with other academic institutions in the area (e.g. Trent U). ACTION: Review potential topics for courses and assess how to include in course rotation			Topics in Mathematical Modelling and Topics in Scientific Computing) that are used to offer topics ranging from Matrix Algebra to Digital Medicine. To broaden the scope of what we offer, we exchange lists of offered courses with Trent and highlight the Fields Institute offerings to the attention of our students.
5.	RECOMMENDATION: The Program should also consider offering courses through the Fields "Academy". This would enable faculty to reach a broader student audience and could potentially attract future graduate students to Ontario Tech and this Program (NB Fields also offers compensation of roughly $10K to the Institution for such courses). ACTION: Review potential for working with Fields institute to assess course options available there	Winter 2026	Complete	We are compiling a list of courses that could be offered through the Fields Academy. However, as noted in 6. these courses will be "Topics" courses. They will be interdisciplinary in nature, covering perspectives such as Digital Medicine and Modelling Sustainability. Another option, requiring support from affiliated FBIT faculty is Optimization and Logistics.
6.	RECOMMENDATION: Implement a robust system for ongoing program evaluation and monitoring, collecting feedback from stakeholders and tracking student outcomes to inform programmatic	Winter 2026	Complete	The Dean of Science Office is working with the Registrar's office and Advancement to more regularly collect feedback from graduating students and alumni. More robust feedback will help us better tailor our courses and training in areas that support student success post-graduation. The

	changes and ensure responsiveness to evolving needs. ACTION: Discuss with Institutional Research Office if graduation rates and student performance data can be generated automatically and routinely made available to GPDs			challenge we face in this process is the small number of graduates. The survey data that comes back is not reliable due to sample size, and cannot be broken down to the program level so that feedback stays anonymous Similarly, the Graduate Program Assistant is developing a spreadsheet to better track student progress through their programs. It will be used to send reminders on courses, advisory meetings, and other milestones, such as candidacy exams and defenses. The goal here is to get a better lens on how our students are progressing through their program, and how well their program of study is serving their needs post-graduation. Feedback will be used to inform future program modifications We also note that, although our grad courses are not evaluated in the same way as our undergraduate courses, most instructors run their own survey towards the end of their course, usually through the GPD, to obtain feedback. This also serves as a warning system to identify potential improvements in courses or struggling students early.

*Process Status Legend:

***Complete**: Accomplished action item; no further steps required.*
***Continuous**: Initial action item complete but requires ongoing monitoring and/or enhancement.*
***In Progress:** Progress on the action item has been initiated but is not complete at this time. Outline all steps taken in the comment's column.*
***On Hold**: Unable to complete due to other dependent factor(s).*
***Cancelled**: Item no longer relevant or resources unavailable.*

Additional comments:
N/A

This 18-month follow-up report will be sent to the Resource Committee for review. The Committee may recommend further monitoring of outstanding items on a case-by-case basis. A summary of this report will be prepared and approved by the appropriate standing committee of Academic Council (USC/GSC), reported to Academic Council, and posted on the Ontario Tech corporate website.

Next Scheduled Program Review: 2029-2031