



ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

Action Required:

Public:
Non-Public:

Discussion
Decision

TO: Academic Council

DATE: October 20, 2015

FROM: Brad Maclsaac, AVP Planning & Analysis, and Registrar and
 Becky Dinwoodie, Assistant University Secretary

SUBJECT: Conferral of Degrees – Administrative Authority to Determine Student Eligibility

A. Purpose

To improve the efficiency of Academic Council by delegating administrative authority to the Registrar to confirm student eligibility and accept Faculty recommendations to grant degrees to those students who have fulfilled all degree requirements, as approved by Academic Council.

B. Background

In October 2014, Academic Council approved the three dates of conferral for the 2014-15 year instead of bringing forward a general motion three separate times. There was discussion on the business efficiencies and a concern was raised with respect to presenting the motion at the appropriate time to allow us to recognize our students. The Registrar noted that we currently do not recognize the student but rather gain approval to accept the faculty recommendations. To actually provide recognition of the number of students, the Registrar committed to providing a summary report at the June Academic Council meeting. It was agreed this would be approved for one year and revisited in 2015.

C. Discussion

Academic Council has the delegated authority from the Board of Governors to confer degrees under section 8.10(a)(VI). While the Council is prohibited from further delegating the decision-making authority in accordance with the principle *delegatus non*

potest delegare (one to whom power is [delegated](#) cannot further delegate that power), the Council may delegate administrative functions in relation to that authority.

Since Academic Council approves the degree requirements for each program and a student must meet those requirements in order to be recommended for graduation by the relevant Faculty, the Academic Council has effectively authorized the conferral of the degree. The Registrar then confirms student eligibility and accepts the faculty recommendations to grant degrees to those students who meet the requisite criteria, which is essentially an administrative authority.

D. Recommendation

We recommend approval of the following motion:

WHEREAS Academic Council has the delegated authority from the Board of Governors to confer degrees under section 8.10(a)(VI) of the UOIT By-Law;

WHEREAS Academic Council has the power to delegate administrative functions in relation to the authority to confer degrees;

WHEREAS Academic Council approves the degree requirements for each program;

WHEREAS students must meet those degree requirements in order to be recommended for graduation by their Faculty;

WHEREAS the Registrar receives graduation recommendations from each Faculty, confirms student eligibility, and accepts each Faculty's recommendations to grant degrees to those students who meet the requisite criteria, which is an administrative function related to Academic Council's authority to confer degrees;

WHEREAS the Registrar has committed to report on the conferral of degrees to Academic Council at every June meeting, highlighting any recommendations that fall outside of Academic Council requirements;

NOW THEREFORE Academic Council hereby confirms the delegated administrative authority of the Registrar to confirm student eligibility and accept Faculty graduation recommendations for those students who have fulfilled all degree requirements and authorizes the Registrar to execute and complete such documents as may be required to exercise this administrative authority.