

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

REPORT TO BOARD OF GOVERNORS AT ITS MEETING OF NOVEMBER 26, 2015

Faculty Council Memberships

Under its terms of reference, the Academic Council Executive Committee is charged with approving the membership list of each Faculty Council on an annual basis. In an effort to eliminate outdated terminology and standardize the format of Faculty Council lists, the Academic Council Executive Committee approved the lists in principle at their meeting on October 6 and asked for the lists to be amended and presented in a consistent format at the next meeting scheduled for November 3. Each of the Faculties updated their Council Membership list and will use the new form going forward, an example of which is attached for ease of reference.

COU Academic Colleague

M. Green provided the Council with a COU update at the meeting held on November 17. In anticipation of electing an alternate COU Academic Colleague this year, he gave an overview of the structure of the COU, what the COU does, and the general time commitment involved as the Academic Colleague.

He provided an update on the status of the provincial funding formula review, as well as several priorities of the COU. He also discussed the launch of the [eCampusOntario](#) portal in September 2015, which provides access to college and university online courses and hundreds of online programs. It was suggested that it would be beneficial to have a representative of the Ontario Online Learning Consortium speak to Academic Council about online learning opportunities.

Budget and Tuition Presentations

Brad Maclsaac, Assistant Vice-President, Planning & Analysis and Registrar, delivered presentations on the Budget and Fees at the last two Academic Council meetings. Both presentations were well received and inspired lengthy and engaged discussions among members. The Council confirmed their interest in providing feedback on these types of matters.

Governance Priorities

C. Foy delivered a presentation on the Academic Appeals Review. She emphasized that student retention is a strategic priority and by providing students with a consistent experience across the university, including during the appeal process, it will contribute to a positive student experience and aid with retention. She advised the Council that they are currently in the pre-draft consultation stage and welcomed feedback on the appeal process from the members.

Risk Management

C. Foy presented a Risk Management update. She discussed the composition of the Risk Management Committee, as well as their responsibilities. She confirmed that there are still open positions on the Committee. She advised Council that the Risk Management assessment will also be used to compile the university's compliance obligations. The timeline for completing the risk assessment, risk register and risk profile was presented. She expressed that the ultimate goal is to create a risk management culture within the university. Members expressed their concerns about the possibility of a risk management culture interfering with academic freedom and impeding creativity and innovation. C. Foy pointed the Council members to the Risk Management Policy. The Policy acknowledges that many university activities are inherently risky and also states a commitment to academic freedom. The intent is to intelligently manage risk not to limit activities that may be risky

Curriculum and Program Review Committee

Faculty of Business and Information Technology (FBIT)

The Council approved the following proposals:

1. Addition of an Entrepreneurship Major and Minor

The Faculty of Business and Information Technology has been a leader in facilitating internships with entrepreneurial start-ups (both locally and internationally) as well as in the integration of an incubator into its undergraduate and graduate programs. Measures of entrepreneurship activity have become increasingly entrenched as components used to assess the efforts of colleges and universities and as characteristics by which some campuses may be differentiated from others. The proposed major and minor in Entrepreneurship will allow UOIT to address an identified need for Entrepreneurship education. The major has been developed for the Bachelor of Commerce program and the minor would be open to any student in a major at UOIT with approval of their home faculty and the Faculty of Business and IT.

2. Addition of a Simple Pathway with Fleming College for the Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting

Following the success of the ACTU program with Durham College, FBIT proposed extending the bridge to Fleming students. Fleming students will be join the existing embedded bridge. This program will provide students with the opportunity for a 2 + 2 diploma-to-degree pathway which is in line with UOIT's strategic mandate.

3. Addition of a Simple Pathway with Durham College for the Bachelor of Commerce in Marketing

Following the success of the ACTU program with Durham College, FBIT proposed embedding the Commerce Bridge into the Durham College 2-year Marketing Diploma (MKTU). This program will provide students with the opportunity for a 2 + 2 diploma-to-degree pathway which is in line with UOIT's strategic mandate.

Faculty of Science

4. Removal of the Bachelor of Science (3-year degree)

This program was originally approved and modified to address specific objectives (provide appropriate credential to apply to medical school, provide an appropriate exit strategy, offer an alternate pathway for students who have not been able to attain the required cumulative grade point average to proceed to fourth/final year of a Honours B.Sc. program). Currently, these objectives are either not being met or are no longer applicable. As there were no significant impacts on faculty, staff, or students, the Faculty of Science recommended the immediate closure of the 3-year B.Sc. program.

Faculty of Social Science and Humanities

5. Name change from the Bachelor of Arts in Community Development and Policy Studies to Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

The name change addressed the following issues:

- The name "Community Development and Policy Studies" is one that is non-traditional and holds little meaning for most high school students entering university;
- "Political Science" is a more recognizable and meaningful name for our target demographic and reflects the main components of the existing program; and
- "Political Science" name will assist with program recruitment initiatives by appealing to a broader range of students looking to develop knowledge about, and the skills for employment in, Canadian politics and public service, international and domestic non-profit organizations, and multinational corporations.

6. Additions of simple pathways with Bermuda College to the Bachelor of Arts majors in Communication and Digital Media Studies, Community Development and Policy Studies, Criminology, Forensic Psychology, and Legal Studies.

These pathways are in line with the university's 2015-2020 International Plan. In particular, they will emphasize an objective within the first Strategic Direction: setting international pathways as the focus of our international recruitment. Moreover, they will enhance our institutional capacity for internationalization and increase our international presence.