

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

REPORT TO BOARD OF GOVERNORS AT ITS MEETING OF OCTOBER 21, 2015

Academic Council Elections 2015-2016

Academic Council held elections in March and August to fill the vacant positions for 2015-2016. Each election was held in accordance with the Academic Council Procedures for the Election of Teaching, Non-Academic Staff and Student Representatives instituted last year by Council. No complaints were received regarding the conduct of the elections.

Academic Council has approved the appointment of the following faculty representatives to serve on Academic Council for 3 year terms ending in 2018:

Maurice DiGiuseppe, Faculty of Education

Hossam Gaber, Faculty of Energy Systems and Nuclear Science

Mark Green, Faculty of Science

Sharon Lauricella, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities

Qusay Mahmoud, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science

Hannah Scott, At-Large Faculty Representative

Academic Council has approved the appointment of the following student representatives to serve on Academic Council and its standing committees for 2 year terms ending in 2017:

Academic Council Undergraduate Student Representative -

Taylor Collins, Faculty of Social Science and Humanities

Academic Appeals Committee -

Emma Blackwood, Faculty of Science

Admissions and Scholarship Committee -

Callum Campbell, Faculty of Science

COU Academic Colleague

Given the impending expiration of Mark Green's term as COU Academic Colleague ("Colleague") on June 30, 2015, Academic Council considered the Academic Council Executive Committee's recommendation to reappoint him as the Colleague for an additional 3 year term ending in 2018. The Committee also recommended that a formal policy and procedures be developed over the next several months setting out the nomination and election process for selecting the Colleague and an alternate Colleague, which would assist with succession planning. Once the process for selecting the Academic Colleague and an alternate is finalized, the Executive Committee recommended proceeding with the selection of an alternate.

There was a general consensus among Council members that the selection process should be formalized. After a robust discussion about the Council's past practices and succession strategy, Council resolved to renew M. Green's term as COU Academic Colleague for 1 year with the intention of grooming an alternate Colleague during that year to succeed him.

Governance Priorities

The Council's governance priorities for 2015-16 are:

1. Amendments to Academic Appeals Committee processes to improve operational efficiency, educational tools, and procedural fairness;
2. By-Law Review Project; and
3. Policies/Procedures:
 - Academic Council Committee Appointments
 - COU Colleague and Alternate Colleague Appointment

Records Management Policy

Upon receiving recommendations from the Graduate Studies Committee and Curriculum and Program Review Committee to support of the Records Management Policy ("RMP"), Academic Council provided its support for approval of the RMP by the Board. Dr. Glenn Harvel, a member of both the Curriculum and Program Review and Graduate Studies Committees, contributed greatly to the development and wording of the RMP.

Curriculum and Program Review Committee

Given the success of other pathway programs with Durham College, the Faculty of Business and Information Technology proposed a new Bachelor of Information Technology pathway by embedding the IT Bridge into the Durham College 2-year Computer Systems Diploma (CSTU), which was approved by Academic Council.

Academic Council Orientation

Incorporating the feedback received regarding last year's orientation session, this year's Academic Council Orientation took place following Academic Council's first meeting of the year. The goals of the session were for the Council members to better understand:

1. key university governance principles and external legislation;
2. UOIT's governance structure (Act and By-Law); and
3. Academic Council's processes.

There were 11 attendees and the feedback was generally positive. The session was followed by a reception with several members of the Board of Governors. It provided a great opportunity for the members of the Board and Council to interact in a less formal setting.