



ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

SESSION:

Public

ACTION REQUESTED:

Decision
Discussion/Direction
Information

Financial Impact Yes No

Included in Budget Yes No

TO: **Academic Council**

DATE: **May 21, 2019**

PRESENTED BY: **Robert Bailey, Provost and Vice-President, Academic (Interim)**

SUBJECT: **Faculty of Education and Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities Unit Reviews**

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

- In January 2018, the Centre of Institutional Quality Enhancement (CIQE) presented to University Administrative Council the benefits of unit reviews across the university (including Faculties, departments, support services and administrative units). The reviews provide an opportunity for a unit to assess whether it is reaching its goals and connect the goals of the unit to the mission and priorities of Ontario Tech University. The reviews create a culture of quality enhancement across the university and can identify any issues or roadblocks impeding the functioning of units. They can also identify processes that are successful with the hope of transferring lessons learned.
- After consultation with the Provost, CIQE commenced the first two reviews: the Faculty of Education and the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities.
- External reviewers were proposed and contacted about their willingness to participate
- Dr. Alice Pitt (Vice-Provost, Academic; York University) and Dr. David Mandzuk (Dean, Faculty of Education; University of Manitoba) were selected and were provided with relevant information from both Faculties.
- The external reviewers were on campus for two days in January and met with key stakeholders in each respective Faculty, as well as other relevant staff members across the institution.
- The final report was presented to the Provost on February 21, 2019.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:

- The unit reviews were completed within budget with the assistance of the Faculties, the Centre for Institutional Quality Enhancement, the two external reviewers and the Provost's Office.
- The external reviewers receive an honorarium upon receipt of the final report as well as travel expenses reimbursed.

ALIGNMENT WITH MISSION, VISION, VALUES & STRATEGIC PLAN:

- Ontario Tech University's mission states that the university will "provide superior undergraduate and graduate programs that are technology-enriched and responsive to the needs of students and the evolving workplace" and "cultivate a dynamic learning environment for students by promoting social engagement, fostering critical thinking and integrating experiences inside and outside the classroom".
- There is a need to continue to review all units of the institution to continually ensure we are living by our values and providing the best environment for our students.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM REPORT:

- a) Student Experience
 - Access to YMCA for students downtown: This initiative has been explored but a resolution that benefitted students was not achieved. We will continue to research and examine how students can gain access to recreational services;
 - Parking for students downtown: Currently students have access to the Mary Street parking structure. However, they have no access to parking at the north location. This was explored during the move to the downtown location and was part of the rationale for access to Durham transit through the UPASS fee.
- b) Research
 - Focus on the need for research space at the downtown location: Space is always an issue for the university and we are working within the Campus Master Plan to address the needs of researchers, faculty and staff and also the City and other stakeholders on possible solutions.
- c) Administrative Structure
 - Merger of the two Faculties was deemed not optimal at this time but will review further how some "back office" administrative supports may be integrated;
 - Space planning will include consideration of integrated administrative functions which will take advantage of academic and research synergies between the two Faculties.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- Report of the Review Team for the Academic Unit Reviews of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities and the Faculty of Education at Ontario Tech University