BOARD REPORT

SESSION:		ACTION REQUESTED:	
Public	☒	**Decision**	☐
Non-Public	☐	**Discussion/Direction**	☐
		Information	☒

TO: **Board of Governors**

DATE: **June 24, 2021**

FROM: **Ferdinand Jones, Academic Council Liaison to the Board of Governors**

SUBJECT: **2020-2021 Academic Council Annual Report**

Academic Council is the academic governing body for Ontario Tech and it plays a significant role in university governance. It is the role of Academic Council to oversee the academic work of the university, and to advise and make recommendations to the Board on important matters. As Academic Council's Board liaison, I am pleased to report on the tremendous work done by Council this year and provide a summary of Academic Council's considerable accomplishments.

As one of the university's governance bodies, Council engaged in a series of strategic discussions over the past year, which focused on:
- o How we can differentiate Ontario Tech from other institutions to enhance our student experience and engagement.
- o Blended Learning: Challenges & Opportunities, Guiding Principles, and Ontario Institutions' Approach to the Future of Learning & Mental Health.

Recommendations to Board of Governors
Academic Council recommended the following proposals for approval by the Board of Governors:
- Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Integrated Mathematics and Computer Science Program
- Master of Business Analytics and AI Program
- Bachelor of Health Administration Program

- Doctor of Education Program
- Graduate Diploma in Police Leadership Program
- Establishment of an Institute for Disability and Rehabilitation Research

Governance Initiatives

- In January, Academic Council approved the Terms of Reference for an Anti-Racism and Inclusion Working Group. This group was established to:
  - examine and make recommendations regarding how Academic Council can engage with the community to better support and remove barriers for our marginalized students;
  - how Academic Council, as a governance body, can further demonstrate a commitment to equity, diversity and inclusivity; and
  - identifying specific actions to be incorporated into Academic Council's work plan.
- Implementation of recently approved Vice-Chair Selection Procedures and appointment of Vice-Chair of Academic Council
- Development & approval of Faculty Council Vice-Chair Selection Procedures
- Review & approval of updated Research Board Terms of Reference (now Research Committee)
- Review & approval of updated Academic Council Procedures for the Election of Teaching, Non-Academic Staff and Student Representatives (now Academic Council Procedures for the Election of Teaching Staff, Administrative Staff and Student Members)
- Review of Academic Appeals Committee Terms of Reference
- Review of Faculty Council Terms of Reference
- Renewal of delegation of authority to Steering Committee

Curriculum & Program Changes

Academic Council approved the following major program modifications:

- Faculty of Education – Minor Program in Educational Studies and Digital Technology
- Faculty of Social Science and Humanities – Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
- Faculty of Social Science and Humanities – Bachelor of Science in Psychology
- English Language Proficiency – Duolingo English Test
- Faculty of Education – Bachelor of Arts in Educational Studies and Digital Technology
- Faculty of Business and Information Technology – Bachelor of Information Technology in Game Development and Entrepreneurship
- Faculty of Health Sciences – MHSc in Health Sciences – Community, Public, and Population Health; Health Informatics; Kinesiology fields
- Faculty of Health Sciences – PhD in Health Sciences
- Faculty of Health Sciences – Work Disability Prevention Graduate Diploma

Academic Policy

Academic Council reviewed and approved the following academic policy instruments and policy updates:

- Academic Integrity policy instruments
- Virtual proctor system directives
- Undergraduate Scholarship Policy
- Professional Suitability Policy and Procedure
- Undergraduate Academic Appeals Policy

Conferral of Degrees

Academic Council confirmed the eligibility for graduation of those students who fulfilled all degree requirements at the end of the Summer and Fall Terms 2020 and Winter Term 2021 and who were recommended for graduation by their Faculty. This included approving to graduate our eligible nurses early so that they could join health care service agencies on the front lines to assist with the pandemic response.

Reports Received

Academic Council received the following reports from the Undergraduate Studies Committee and Graduate Studies Committee:

- Cyclical Program Review 18-Month Follow-Up Reports for the Master of Applied Science and Master of Engineering in Automotive Engineering, Master of Applied Science, Master of Engineering, and Doctor of Philosophy in Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Master of Applied Science, Master of Engineering, and Doctor of Philosophy in Mechanical Engineering programs
- Cyclical Program Review 18-Month Follow-Up Reports for Bachelor of Engineering in Manufacturing Engineering, and Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering Cyclical Program Reviews
- Program Review 18-Month Follow-up Report – Bachelor of Science in Chemistry
- Cyclical Program Review: Faculty of Social Science and Humanities – Bachelor of Arts in Political Science

Scholarships

The selection of recipients for the major scholarship awards for 2021-22 were finalized, and the following is the status of their application and scholarship:

[TBC]

The Chancellor's, President's, and Founder's Scholarships are given to applicants who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement (minimum 85 percent average) and exceptional leadership and community involvement. The Global Leadership Scholarship is one of the university's most prestigious entrance awards and recognizes international secondary school applicants with strong academic and leadership abilities.

2021 Honorary Degree Recipients

The Honorary Degrees Committee awarded honorary doctorates to the following recipients:

- Dr. Mohamed Lachemi
- The Right Honourable Brian Mulroney and Mila Mulroney
- Noreen Taylor

Academic Council Elections

Academic Council held an election in February 2021 to fill the vacant positions for 2021-2022. The election was held in accordance with the Academic Council Procedures for the Election of Teaching, Non-Academic Staff and Student Representatives instituted in 2015 by Council. The elections ran smoothly and no complaints were received regarding the conduct of the elections.

Governance Education

Academic Council members were invited to attend an orientation session on September 22, 2020 and focused on the university's legislation, by-laws and Rules of Order.

Consultations

Academic Council was consulted on the following:

- Refresh of the university's Mission, Vision and Values
- Compliance Policy
- University's Integrated Plan
- Controlled Goods Policy
- 2021-2022 Tuition Framework
- Accommodation Policy
- Respectful Campus Policy
- Harassment and Discrimination Procedures for Employees
- Radiation Safety Policy
- Expenses Procedures
- Signing Authority Policy
- Expenditure Signing Authority Procedure
- Legal Commitments Signing Authority Procedure
- Workplace Violence Policy & Procedure