ACADEMIC COUNCIL

REPORT TO BOARD OF GOVERNORS AT ITS MEETING
OF MARCH 9, 2016

Academic Council approved the following:

Faculty of Science

a) Bachelor of Science in Physical Science – Program Name Change

The Faculty of Science proposed modifications to the B.Sc. (Honours) Physical Science program, most notably an expansion to the breadth of core requirements, and a program name change. With the proposed changes, it will be able to serve as a degree that will 1) be amenable to the creation of pathways, 2) increase retention, in particular, for students who are unsuccessful in certain higher-level core courses in their discipline specific program, and 3) be a viable option for students who do not want to specialize in a particular discipline.

b) Bachelor of Science in Science – Addition of a Simple Pathway with Durham College

The Faculty of Science proposed a new pathway from the three year Pharmaceutical and Food Science Technology diploma program to the UOIT Bachelor of Science in Science – Complementary Studies program (pending approval). Students entering this pathway will receive 60 credits hours in transfer credits for their previous academic work, and will be able to complete the pathway in four terms of study. This pathway is based on the Durham College three-year Pharmaceutical and Food Science Technology diploma program, but other colleges with similar programs may also be eligible.

c) Bachelor of Science in Computing Science – Program Name Change

The Faculty of Science made the proposal to change the name of the "Computing Science" program to "Computer Science." This change applies to both specializations within the current Computing Science degree program. The current program name is somewhat non-traditional and very few universities in Canada offer a "Computing Science" program. The proposed name, "Computer Science," is more recognizable and better positions our program in respect to other similar programs, both within in Canada and North America. The proposed name change will help better market the undergraduate program. Prospective students understand and recognize the nomenclature of Computer Science more readily. Similarly, UOIT currently offers graduate degree (M.Sc. and Ph.D) in Computer Science. The proposed name change will thereby help to better align the undergraduate program with the existing Computer Science graduate program. In terms of recruitment and marketing, this makes for a better story and a more focused message to potential students.

Office of the Registrar
a) New Academic Standing Category – Program Dismissal

The creation of "Program Dismissal" as an academic standing category permits the university to remove a student from a program without removing them from the university. For example, if a student is found professionally unsuitable or unable to pass clinical/practicum placements, the only academic standing category available now would be "Suspended". Having "Program Dismissal" as an academic standing category will enable such students to apply for transfer to another program where the clinical courses are not required. Similarly, if a student does not pass a course required for a program in the maximum number of attempts, they will have an opportunity of applying to another program where the course is not required.

b) Academic Standing Clarification - Dismissal

c) Revision to the Program Change process and corresponding Calculation of Cumulative Grade Point Average

In the Retention Report (2014), the committee recommended a review of a number of policies and procedures which they felt were acting as barriers to student success. Using all course attempts in the calculation of a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) negatively affects a student who is transferring from a program where they may have a number of poor grades. We have students who continue to get above 2.0 in semester GPAs who are not able to achieve a 2.0 CGPA because first year failures are still part of the calculation. By treating these program changes similar to transfers from other institutions, such that only those courses that are at least a "C" grade are included, we will be more equitable and solve the issue noted above. As per current practice, all attempts will remain on the official transcript.

Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) and Curriculum and Program Review Committee (CPRC)

a) Program Review – Final Assessment Report 2013-2014

Each year programs that are either at the Response to External Reviewer Report or 18-Month Follow-Up stage of the program review process are required to submit a summary report. The Final Assessment Report is a compilation of all the programs that have created action plans based on recommendations, as well programs that are providing a progress report on those action plans. In 2013-14, there were four programs that created action plans based on recommendations (Bachelor of Information Technology, Bachelor of Science in Physics, Bachelor of Health Sciences, and Master of Science/Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science), and three programs that provided a progress report (Bachelor of Allied Health Sciences, Bachelor of Engineering/Bachelor of Engineering and Management in Electrical Engineering, Bachelor of Engineering/Bachelor of Engineering and Management in Software Engineering). Quality Council requires that each institution submit a Program Review – Final Assessment Report and make it available on its website. The full report is available at https://shared.uoit.ca/shared/department/opp/Governance/Academic-Council/20160119/8-3a-final-assessment-report-on-2013-2014-program-reviews.pdf.

Academic Council recommended the following for approval by the Board of Governors:

a) **Continuing Education Program Policy** (formerly known as the Non-Degree Programs, Diplomas and Certificates Policy)

The CPRC and GSC recommended the removal of diploma programs from the policy as they are considered degree level programs. The policy will apply to all continuing education programs which include certificates, short courses, workshops, and other non-degree non-credit programs. Undergraduate and Graduate diplomas are currently governed by the Quality Assurance Handbook and will continue to follow the outlined processes and procedures.

Council of Ontario Universities (COU) Academic Colleague & Alternate Appointment Process

The COU is made up of two representatives from each member and associate member institution: the executive head (president or principal) and an academic colleague appointed by each institution's senior academic governing body ("COU AC"). At the Academic Council meeting on June 16, 2015, Academic Council considered the reappointment of Mark Green as the COU AC for an additional term. The Council discussed the past practice of selecting the COU AC and there was general consensus that the process should be formalized. There was also discussion regarding the value of having an alternate COU AC. The Council reappointed Mark Green as COU AC for an additional term ending June 30, 2016, with the intention of selecting a replacement according to a formal process during 2015-16 so that the new COU AC could be mentored by Mark Green during the remainder of his term to ensure a smooth transition.

A set of recommendations for the COU AC nomination and election process were discussed by Academic Council in January 2016. The Council supported the recommendations and a new COU AC and Alternate will be selected in accordance with the proposed process during the upcoming Academic Council elections.

Governance Priorities

C. Foy delivered a presentation on the Safe Disclosure Policy. Council members provided their feedback and recommended the Safe Disclosure Policy for approval by the Board of Governors.

Academic Council was also consulted on the Contract Management Framework and Policy and Legal Review of Contracts Procedures, which will be returning to Council next month to obtain their recommendation.