



ACADEMIC COUNCIL
Minutes
Special Meeting of October 30, 2007

Present:	R. Marceau
R. Bordessa, Chair	B. Muirhead
W. Bartfay	F. Naumkin
C. Byrne	B. Schell
B. Campbell	N. Trivedi
I. Dincer	S. Van Nuland
P. Drayson	A. Waker
J. Friedlan	J. Wolf
M. Genoe	O. Petrie, Secretary
B. Goodman	
J. Greenlaw	Guests:
M. Greenley	M. Milovick
D. Lovisa	

Ron Bordessa observed that this special meeting of Academic Council was convened to consider the report of the Curriculum and Program Review Committee. He noted that, in the event that he might be seen to be in a conflict of interest with regard to the committee's proposal, he has asked Vice-Chair Marceau to lead the discussion.

1. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1.1 CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM REVIEW COMMITTEE

Bill Muirhead presented the report of the committee recommending approval for a new Bachelor of Arts (Honours) program in Communication. He indicated that the special meeting for consideration of this proposal was required in order to meet the Ministry deadline for the submission of new programs and ensure that funding approval will be in place for the anticipated launch of the program in 2008. He added that the program will complement the existing array of programs and has already generated high interest among potential applicants at recent university fair events.

Jim Greenlaw added that the program has the potential to grow to 460 students over four years if desired, and fits well with the university's mandate to provide the best possible career opportunities for our graduates.

Several questions were raised about the administrative aspects of the proposed program and how it might impact on existing offerings, classroom capacity and enrolment constraints. Members were assured that these issues remain high priorities that will be addressed both for the next academic year and over longer term as the university continues to build. In particular, it was noted that the new undergraduate programs in Communication and in Legal Studies would contribute to the UOIT's achievement of the Ministry's enrolment target in 2009, but it is very possible that this target might be increased to help deal with the anticipated shortfall in university spaces across the greater Toronto area. Further, the issue of class size was highlighted as an area of concern, with members observing there were large classes in the Faculty of Business and Information Technology that would likewise benefit from smaller enrolments. Dr. Marceau indicated that he wasn't aware of this concern and undertook to discuss with Dean Schell how they might alleviate this problem in that Faculty. In addition, the

Provost's office will continue to manage enrolments among the different programs with care and in collaboration with the deans.

MOTION CARRIED *That Academic Council recommend to the Board of Governors the proposed Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Program in Communication, Faculty of Education, as set out in Appendix A of the Committee's report.*

Olivia Petrie, Secretary