

Submission to the Task Forces for Vision 2030 From the Deans of Single Department Faculties

The Deans for the Single Department Faculties at UofT welcome the opportunity to respond to the call for submissions under the 2030 review initiated by President Naylor. At our meeting on January 24 2008, we discussed issues respecting governance across the University, especially in light of the submission recently made to the Task Forces by three of our members representing the Faculties of Nursing, Pharmacy and Dentistry. Our entire group makes this submission now in light of those discussions.

In terms of both governance and administrative functionality, the current organizational framework of all the Single Department Faculties is that of fully self-contained and independent units. An important formal venue currently providing the opportunity to recognize common issues and set common agendas is the DSDF, which meets monthly. To date, this forum has provided the faculties which comprise DSDF to participate as part of collective university governance. At DSDF, this has in recent months led to increased activity with respect to functional aspects of university organization in the light of the implementation of the new budget model.

The DSDF has been a helpful forum for the discussion of implications of specific aspects of budgetary management. It has also provided a venue from which to communicate with the University Executive the effect of policy initiatives on the smaller divisions. From the perspective of all our faculties the DSDF has provided essential support for the development of common agenda and a mechanism to engage more broadly in university governance. No less important is the manner in which it has allowed for a collegial network across the university that has integrated health science, north-south and heterogeneous professional and disciplinary schools.

Virtually all the single department faculties are regulated by external professional bodies. They occupy a common place with respect to their external stakeholders and their national professional communities. The positioning of the faculties' undergraduate and graduate programs at the top of their respective fields, the intense competition for entry, and the high quality of applicants all attest to the strong reputation of each faculty. Likewise the world-class research output of faculty (tenured and status) and research trainees, place these faculties in the top tiers of North American and international programs in their respective fields.

In the light of this standing and strength, the Deans of the Single Department Faculties wish to state that they concur with the recommendations in regard to governance, sustainability and external relations, set out in the submission recently made to the Task Forces for Vision 2030 by the Deans of Dentistry, Nursing, and Pharmacy

George Baird,
Chair, Deans of Single Department Faculties
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