

UTM Office of the Dean Newsletter

Announcement re. Implementation Plan Dashboard

The Office of the Dean is pleased to announce the launch of the Academic Plan Implementation Dashboard (accessible at <https://academicplan.utm.utoronto.ca/>) which outlines the various strategies, targets, and reporting mechanisms by which UTM will strive to realize the objectives of its four-year Academic Plan.

The Dashboard will serve as an overall accountability framework to regularly track our progress and success in realizing these objectives, many of which identify particular individuals, academic units, and/or offices that have primary responsibilities in rolling out key initiatives on campus.

In October and throughout November, the Office of the Dean will add updates to the Dashboard that recognize campus-wide achievements in delivering on such initiatives, and these updates will continue to be added on a quarterly basis through to the end of the 2020-21 academic year.

If you have an update to share regarding progress on any aspect of the Academic Plan Implementation, or would like to submit new initiatives that align with the goals and objectives of the Academic Plan, we invite you to submit your suggestions and comments to academicplan.utm@utoronto.ca.

Contents

1. Office of the Dean – Announcement re. Implementation Plan Dashboard.
2. *In the News* – Fiona Rawle, Associate Dean, Undergraduate.
3. Vice-Dean, Academic Experience.
4. Vice-Dean, Faculty.
5. Vice-Dean, Teaching & Learning.
6. Associate Dean, Graduate
7. Office of the Dean joins U of T 10,000 Steps Challenge.

2. *In the News* – Fiona Rawle, Associate Dean, Undergraduate

Our very own, Fiona Rawle, Associate Dean, Undergraduate and also an Associate Professor, Teaching-stream in the department of Biology received the 2017-18 Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations (OCUFA) Teaching Award. OCUFA was founded in 1964 and represents 17,000 faculty members and academic librarians in 29 faculty associations across the province. The annual awards recognize exemplary contributions made to the quality of higher education in Ontario. Fiona was recognized for her passion and dedication as a teacher as well as her commitment to active learning.*

Fiona maintains that “science is creative” and is determined to take a scientific approach to teaching it.*

“Our students deserve to be taught in ways that are shown to be effective, that are engaging and exciting and linked to the real world,” Rawle says. “I don't want my students to remember lists of facts. At the end of the day, I want them to be able to ask questions and find answers.” *

*<https://www.utoronto.ca/news/meet-two-u-t-faculty-members-honoured-ocufa-outstanding-teaching>

3. Vice-Dean, Academic Experience

The Academic Integrity Unit has two staff announcements to celebrate: a new beginning and a 40-year anniversary.

Aniko Zaha has joined the Office of the Dean as the new Academic Integrity Assistant. She comes to us from McMaster University. Aniko has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from York University and a Masters of Education in Educational Psychology (Learning Sciences) from McGill University. She has more than five years' experience working with students and program administration. Her past experience will be of great value as she takes on the responsibilities of this position. Join us in welcoming Aniko to UTM!

Lucy Gaspini was featured in the Bulletin for her 40 years of service to the university. Congratulations, Lucy! Please refer to the following link for further details: https://www.utoronto.ca/bulletin/thank-you-your-brilliant-work-and-your-remarkable-dedication-president-gertler-honours-long?utm_source=The%20Bulletin&utm_campaign=1516f9facb-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2018_06_13_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_916b4e500a-1516f9facb-108891885.

Experiential Education Unit (EEU) Outreach Involvement

Over the past two months, the EEU has been involved in various on and off campus outreach activities and events. The Parent & Family Orientation took place on September 1st. Stephanie Vega, Experiential Learning Officer, gave a joint presentation, with staff from the Career Centre and the Centre for Student Engagement, entitled “Supporting Students, Outside of the Classroom.” The presentation can be viewed in full at <http://webcast.utm.utoronto.ca/1/Watch/2864.aspx>.

On September 11th, the EEU team members attended the UTM Get Experience Fair hosted by the Career Centre. Students were able to interact in person with our Experiential Learning Officers and learn more about the services and opportunities offered by the Unit.



The Health and Counselling Centre held its first community wellness fair, “Be Well UTM,” on September 17th. The EEU team members publicized the benefits of education outside the classroom, including the positive effects of experiential learning on health and well-being.



On September 28th, the EEU attended the Ontario Universities’ Fair at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. EEU representatives interacted with prospective students and their families, promoting experiential learning opportunities available at UTM.

Experiential Learning Bursaries

The Office of the Dean has had the unique opportunity to offer Experiential Learning (EL) Bursaries to students enrolled in eligible EL courses for the Fall 2018 and Winter 2019 academic terms as a result of our successful application to the Ministry of Training, Colleges and University’s (MTCU) Career Ready Fund last year. We hope that this incentive will increase interest in existing curricular EL opportunities and enable students with accessibility concerns, or from marginalized and low-income backgrounds, to fully participate in EL opportunities by covering a portion (or all) of the ancillary fees and other documented costs associated with these courses.

Chairs, Directors and Undergraduate Advisors were contacted in May to recommend eligible courses to the Experiential Education Unit (EEU), which were then reviewed by our Experiential Learning Officers for compliance with the MTCU guidelines on EL. The EEU approved 34 distinct courses that engage in a wide variety of EL activities, such as internships, field trips, community-engaged service learning, and practical career training. EL Bursaries for F and Y courses were distributed to students in October, while

bursaries for S courses will be distributed to students in January. All students receiving a bursary are asked to complete both a pre- and post-course self-assessment survey. Instructors are welcome to request the survey data for their own courses when the report is compiled in 2019.

Lecture Me!

The EEU, in collaboration with the Mississauga Central Library, kicked off the 2018-19 UTM Lecture Me! season with a pair of stimulating and well-attended lectures. On September 11, Professor Terry Robinson of the Department of English & Drama spoke on the “Gothic Jane Austen.” Her presentation showed how a close reading of *Northanger Abbey* uncovers dark secrets, violence, and terror in an otherwise deceptively innocent courtship novel.

On October 2, Professor Kevin Yousie of the Department of Management considered the Fourth Industrial Revolution, examining how its blend of emerging and current technologies are transforming industries and reshaping how we live.

On November 6th, Professor Adriana Grimaldi of the Department of Language Studies lectured on the great Italian poet Dante Alighieri.

4. Vice-Dean, Faculty

In June, three teaching stream faculty, **Judith Poë** of the Department of Chemical & Physical Sciences, **Barbara Murck** of the Department of Geography and **Irene Wiecek** of the Department of Management, were promoted from associate professors, teaching stream to professors, teaching stream. They are the first teaching stream faculty members at UTM to undergo review for promotion under a [new university policy](#).



The Office of the Vice-Dean, Faculty is having one of their busiest years. Over the next five years as the University of Toronto Mississauga looks to hire an additional 100 faculty members to help meet the needs of a growing student population of over 15,000. This academic year we are conducting 30 searches, to see where UTM will be growing this year [Click here](#).

These new faculty will join nearly 400 vibrant scholars who foster graduate and undergraduate excellence through ground breaking programming and game-changing research to prepare graduates to meet global challenges.

Learn more about UTM's newest faculty and their innovative research in unique areas such as robotics, forensic biology, predictive data science, Indigenous digital arts and performance, and the history of Islamic art and architecture.

With new hires comes the increase of tenure reviews, continuing status reviews and promotions. This year 10 teaching stream faculty are being reviewed for continuing status and promotion to Associate Professor, 16 faculty will undergo tenure review and 9 tenure stream faculty will be considered for promotion to Professor.

The Office of the Vice-Dean, Faculty will also be reviewing requests from 6 sessional lecturers for advancement consideration.

A workshop on **Unconscious Bias in Recruitment** will be offered on Thursday, November 29, 2018 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in DV 3210. The workshop will be led by Professor Fiona Rawle and she will walk participants through the latest research on unconscious bias, as well as a series of real-life scenarios in an effort to heighten awareness of how unconscious bias can affect our work on university committees. If you plan on attending, please RSVP to Dina Moreira at dina.moreira@utoronto.ca as seating is limited and a larger room maybe needed.

5. Vice-Dean, Teaching & Learning

Extra-Departmental Unit Workshop

Extra-departmental units (EDUs) are flexible and multidisciplinary entities organized around emerging research and teaching areas that span faculties/campuses. The Vice-Dean Teaching and Learning, Program and Curriculum Office hosted a workshop in May, to help guide faculty members with drafting proposals for new EDUs to be housed on our campus. This workshop provided a brief overview of the levels of EDUs (A, B, C, D), their differentiating characteristics, and the specific sections and topics that should be addressed in a strong proposal.

Presentation slides for this workshop are available from the Program and Curriculum Office upon request.

Foundational Skills Working Groups

The Foundational Writing Skills and Foundational Numeracy Skills Working Groups continued to meet on a monthly basis to discuss how to best implement competency programs in their respective areas at UTM. Meetings came to an end in early July. Each committee prepared a report and recommendations for the Dean, which were approved for presentation at the Chairs' and Directors' Meeting held on September 12th. The Office of the Dean extends its gratitude to all members of both committees for their service and dedication throughout this extensive process.

The Writing Working Group recommends that UTM create a required first-year writing course (0.5 FCE), which will provide the necessary foundation for developing discipline-specific writing skills in

upper years as well as providing a venue for important transitional skills. This recommendation was circulated for consultation among UTM faculty and staff in early October and brought to two town halls for public discussion throughout the month. The Working Group will meet again in late 2018 to consider the feedback and to recommend a next step.

The Numeracy Working Group similarly recommends that UTM create a first-year numeracy course (0.5 FCE) focused on developing numeracy skills targeted at specific disciplinary streams, which may be introduced as either a requirement for all incoming students or as a program requirement for interested units. The Numeracy Working Group's recommendations were discussed in two Chairs' and Directors' meetings, and the committee has since been reconvened to prepare a response to their feedback.

Sustainability Working Group

The Sustainability Pathways Working Group continued to meet on a monthly basis to explore ways in which UTM could better integrate instruction in Sustainability into its existing curricular offerings and offer students the possibility of developing a "Sustainability pathway" within their various degree programs. Meetings concluded in May with a full-day retreat that was used to prepare the committee's report and recommendation for the Dean; this document has since been widely circulated for consultation among UTM faculty and staff. The Office of the Dean extends its gratitude to all members of the committee for their service and dedication throughout this extensive process.

As per the recommendation of the Working Group, Chair Shashi Kant is collaborating with the Office of the Dean to prepare a draft proposal for a certificate program in Sustainability. Three Sustainability-focused courses, which will serve as the backbone for this certificate, are presently moving through the curriculum process in order for introduction into the

6. Associate Dean, Graduate

Graduate Expansion Funds

The Graduate Expansion Fund is used to enhance the graduate experience of UTM-affiliated graduate students and graduate students being advised by UTM faculty. This year, the call for proposals for the Decanal Graduate Expansion Fund focused on "workshops, symposia, conferences, and other public events to be held at UTM ... that foster publication, networking, and professional development." Interdisciplinary proposals across fourteen UTM units were funded on such topics as Polar and High-Altitude Environments, Human and Machine Intelligence, Relationship Theory, Sustainability, Gupta Inscriptions, Cognition, Learning and Technology, and Women in Science. A new program to fund graduate student visits to labs at other universities is also being funded in collaboration with a department. These events provide opportunities for networking and dissemination of research as well as the development of professional skills.

We look forward to updating everyone on the dates and times for the public components of these events.

7. Office of the Dean joins U of T 10,000 Steps Challenge



**Congratulations to our two Teams:
Happy Feet & School of Walk!**

Congratulations to everyone for “stepping up!” The final results for both teams were as follows:

Happy Feet (8 members)

Total number of steps - 2.4673 million

Daily Average number of steps - 9,948.63

Ranking based on daily average – 41 out of 80 teams

Ranking based on total number of steps - 26/80

School of Walk (9 members)

Total number of steps – 3.0556 million

Daily Average number of steps – 10,952.01

Ranking based on daily average – 28 out of 80 teams

Ranking based on total number of steps – 11/80

Overall, the university had 80 teams who participated in the October 10, 000 Steps Challenge with 570 members who walked 167 million steps! Amazing turn out! And congratulations to all!