

TST/U of T Conjoint Programs – Provostial Review

The Group found the review to be positive, with reviewers commenting that TST is a leading international programme in theology and the flagship programme in Canada with unimpeachable high quality programmes. We have several questions related to the administrative response.

1) Does the summary accurately tell the story of the full review?

- *Were there any issues raised in the review report that were either (i) not presented in the summary, or (ii) not presented with sufficient stress?*

NO:

- On page 5 (3rd paragraph) of the Review Report the reviewers state that “It is important that TST (and member colleges) evaluate ethically, the ideal number of doctoral student admissions, considering their future career prospects.” This point was not captured in the summary of the review.
- On page 9 bottom of summary report, the importance of the recommendation that the relationship between U of T and TST has “room for improvement” could be emphasized, given the importance the reviewers placed on this, “We recognize that this is complicated legally because TST is a legally separate organization, but we are confident that there are ways to provide incentives for closer mutual collaboration and cooperative governance.”

2) Does the Dean’s administrative response adequately address all issues identified?

- *Does the administrative response present a forward-looking plan to address those issues?*

NO:

- On page 9 (2nd last bullet of Faculty/Research recommendations) of the summary report, the reviewers recommend, “ Undertake a coordinated, strategic faculty complement planning exercise that includes consideration of the current high faculty-student ratio, anticipated retirements, and the diversity of the faculty complement.” However, the issue of high student:faculty ratio is not addressed in the administrative response.
- For the Administrative Response #4 related to recommendation to make student financial aid a major goal, more detail is requested with regard to need to gather data and forming an advisory committee. Is there any information about steps that might be taken to move in the direction of greater diversity and better funding?
- For the Administrative Response #6, could the Director share details about the revisions to the Policy for Academic Appointments (referred to in the response) that would facilitate graduate faculty appointment?

- For the Administrative Response #7, could the Director clarify what is meant by 'strengths and weakness' with reference to data collection to respond to the issue of lack of diversity?
- For the Administrative Response #9, could the Director provide more information on the rationale for enrollment planning having to precede faculty planning, as opposed to running in tandem. More information about the planning, including timeline would be helpful.

3) Are there any questions, comments or substantive issues that the Committee should consider? Is there need to ask that the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs bring forward a follow-up report? For example, the Committee could request a formal report in a year's time.

YES:

A follow up report is requested, given significant resource (human and financial) limitations, and the search for a new Director, all of which will impact the ability of TST to make significant advancements on these recommendations.