



MEMORANDUM

TO: Fran Walley, chair, planning and priorities committee of Council

FROM: Carol Rodgers, chair, governance committee of Council

DATE: January 30, 2014

RE: **Governance committee response to the Support Service Transformation Task Force report and the Academic Programs Transformation Task Force report**

On behalf of members of the governance committee of Council, I am pleased to provide the committee's response to the TransformUS task force reports. Members had the opportunity to discuss the reports at the committee's meeting on January 8, 2014. In its review of the reports, the committee focused on the implications of the reports relative to Council's authority and governance processes, and the authorities and governance of Senate and the Board of Governors, particularly in those areas where the responsibilities of these bodies intersect. The committee reviewed the process and role of each governing body regarding the establishment and disestablishment of colleges, schools, departments, chairs, endowed chairs or institutes, and the power of Council to authorize major revisions or alterations to programs of study.

The committee made note of the role of the academic programs committee (APC) to recommend to Council on new programs, major program deletions, including their budgetary implications. The committee suggests that APC take a leading role in reviewing the academic programs that have received lower grading in the prioritization report and be pro-active in terms of understanding what is necessary within these programs to maintain program quality. The release of the implementation plan may inform APC in this regard; however, APC should not be constrained in its choice of those programs to review.

The governance committee advises that as much clarity as possible be attained regarding the roles and responsibilities of the respective institutional governing bodies relative to decisions being submitted to Council, which arise from the TransformUS task force reports. Importantly, clarity regarding the authority available to each body through the incidental clause, "*to do any other thing that the Board/Council/Senate considers necessary, incidental or conducive to exercising its powers, to promoting the best interests of the university or to meeting the purposes of this Act*" is desired.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carol Rodgers".

Carol Rodgers

c Brett Fairbairn, Chair, PCIP
Roy Dobson, Chair, APC