



Memorandum

Date: 19 November 2009

To: Graduate Chairs/Directors, Graduate Coordinators, and Graduate Administrators

From: Robert L. Baker, Vice Dean, Research and Graduate Programs

Re: FAS Planning and Graduate Enrollment

Graduate education is a significant component of academic planning in FAS and it is expected that unit plans will include comments on graduate education and enrollment under the template headings of Vision, Key strengths, Priorities, and Plans for Achieving Success.

To aid in the preparation of the graduate component of your plan, I am writing to remind you of important issues that will affect graduate enrollment over the next few years.

Enrollment Growth and Ratio of PhD to Master's

Phase 2 of the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities graduate expansion plans allocated 339 additional Master's spaces and 249 additional PhD spaces to the University of Toronto. Relative to 2004-2005, this brings the total expansion targets to 1709 and 1013 respectively. The ministry initially expected the expansion plan to end in 2011-2012 but has relaxed this somewhat and allowed the targets to be met by 2013-2014.

A critical point here is that the University of Toronto is already at or above its allocation of Master's spaces. Given the government is unlikely to allocate new funds for graduate expansion at this time we face the real risk of accepting BIU eligible students that do not, in fact, attract BIUs. It is clearly important that we not increase our Master's enrollment over the next years.

In contrast, the University of Toronto will likely have difficulty in reaching its target for PhD students and any shortfall in enrollment by 2013-2014 will result in a lower base funding for the future. Growth in PhD enrollment now will allow for larger and more flexible base budgets in the future.

Ratio of Domestic to International Students

Accepting International Students to our graduate programs is important in that, by deepening the pool of prospective students, it allows us to select the very best students. Also, in many programs, having students with a mix of different experiences and backgrounds allows for a wider range of ideas and stimulating discussion.

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It is important to recognize however that these advantages come at a significant cost. The Faculty of Arts & Science provides the same funding packages for international students as it does domestic students; but because international students attract no BIUs, are assessed higher tuition and health insurance fees, and attract few scholarships, they cost the Faculty far more to support. Domestic PhD students in the Humanities, Social Sciences and Sciences provide a net revenue of ~ \$7,900, \$7,300, and \$11,400 respectively while international students represent a net financial loss of ~ \$16,000, \$14,500 and \$11,800 respectively. In short, selecting one international student over a domestic student results in a net cost of ~ \$23,000 per student per year.

The Faculty of Arts & Science currently provides ~ \$25M as UTF funding to graduate students in the funded cohort and that sum represents a very large component of the overall budget. It is imperative that unit plans consider carefully the costs and benefits of accepting international students; any increase in international graduate enrollment must come at the expense of other priorities.

Existing Plans and Recent History of Enrollment Growth

To aid in the development of your plans, I have attached a sheet that details your unit's existing graduate enrollment plan (to 2011) and your progress since 2004. We do not require that you provide specific target enrollments as part of your plan but do expect you to provide an indication of the general direction you see your unit moving in over the next five years.

Please let me or Aimy Lieu know if you have any questions or concerns.

RLB/tm