

Ontario Universities Fair Task Force  
Report to the OURA Annual General Meeting  
February 20, 2007

The Task Force to review the Ontario Universities Fair (OUF) was formed by the OURA Executive to address two main issues:

1. the OUF is a major public event, with a \$250K budget run almost entirely by volunteers. There is no question of the quality of the work of these volunteers, but the size of the Fair, and its importance as a very public event for the Universities in Ontario has grown beyond its humble beginnings and needs full-time support.
2. several issues have arisen recently, most notably around sponsorship. The resolution of these issues demonstrated that there were conflicts over who believed they had authority over decision-making for the OUF.

The Task Force engaged the services of a consultant, Innovia Partners, and through a series of meetings in 2006 clarified the roles and responsibilities of all of the stakeholders in the OUF. The composition of the new OUF Steering Committee acknowledges the significant role of the Standing Committee on Secondary School Liaison (SCSSL) in the organization of the Fair, by ensuring that the Chair and two members of the OUF Steering Committee would be chosen from the membership of the SCSSL. Other stakeholders are represented on the Steering Committee by two positions to be held by a Registrar and one other person, either a Registrar or a senior administrator responsible for their institution's budget for the Fair. And finally, two positions would be held by staff from OUAC and COU.

This new Steering Committee acknowledges:

- the role of COU as a sponsor of the Fair
- the role of OURA in monitoring the governance of the Fair
- the link to the Executive Heads/COU through the role of the Chair of the Steering Committee as a member of the OUAC Advisory Board
- the role of OUAC in providing the administrative support to actually administer the Fair (an address, staff support, management of the budget)

Currently, we are finalizing the membership on the OUF Steering Committee and following through on a transition plan developed in December by members of the Task Force and our consultant. OUAC is becoming involved in all discussions concerning the administration of the Fair and is in the process of defining responsibility for the Fair within the job description of staff at OUAC.

On behalf of members of the Task Force (Ken Lavigne, Lou Ariano, Charmaine Hack, Marisa Modeski, Liam Mitchell, George Granger, and Jennie Piekos),  
Respectfully submitted,

Susan Salusbury (Chair)