

**Legislative
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**UNIVERSITY OF ONTARIO INSTITUTE OF
TECHNOLOGY- BOARD OF GOVERNORS
(SEPTEMBER 4, 2020 CERTIFICATE)
ORDER-IN-COUNCIL APPOINTMENT OF
DOUGLAS ELLIS***

Prepared for:

Standing Committee on
Government Agencies

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October 8, 2020

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INTRODUCTION

This document was prepared to assist Members participating in the Committee's review of the Order-in-Council appointment of Douglas Ellis to the Board of Governors of the University of Ontario Institute of Technology. It describes the role and operations of the Board, presents information about the appointee, and suggests possible lines of questioning.

UNIVERSITY OF ONTARIO INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Enabling Statute	Responsible Ministry
<i>University of Ontario Institute of Technology Act, 2002</i>	Ministry of Colleges and Universities
Agency Type	Most Recent Annual Report
N/A	2017-18
Activities of the Agency	
The Board of Governors is responsible for governing and managing the affairs of the university, which includes determining the mission, vision and values of the university; and establishing academic, research, service and institutional policies and plans and to control the manner in which they are implemented.	
Board Membership	
Statutory Number of Members: Not more than 25. Appointed by Cabinet: 3 Current Members: 20 Term of Office: No more than 3 years, with reappointment for additional 3 years. Remuneration: Appointees do not receive remuneration. Board Meetings: 4 times a year.	
Position Requirements	
Every Board member is required to exercise the powers and carry out the duties of their office diligently, honestly, in good faith, in the best interests of the university, and in accordance with any other criteria set out in the by-laws of the university.	

OVERVIEW OF THE UNIVERSITY

One of 20 publicly-assisted universities in Ontario, the University of Ontario Institute of Technology (UOIT) was established in 2002 and has locations in north Oshawa and downtown Oshawa. The university rebranded itself as "Ontario Tech University" (or "Ontario Tech") in March 2019.¹

Focusing on experiential and career-oriented learning programs in technology, the sciences, and professional practice, Ontario Tech has over 10,000 undergraduate and graduate students and more than 1,550 faculty and staff. The university offers bachelor's, master's, and PhD programs.²

¹ Suzanne Bowness, "[Anatomy of a name change: Ontario Tech University](#)," *University Affairs*, April 26, 2019.

² UOIT, "[Fast Facts](#)."

Ontario Tech has more than 90 market-oriented programs, with more than 500 community and industry partners; and more than 70 faculties. Some 80% of the university's students participate in work-integrated learning programs; and 95% of graduates have a job within two years of graduation.³

Recent News

The university was awarded the No. 1 in Ontario ranking on the Sierra Club's 2020 "Cool School Rankings" for its sustainability initiatives on campus.⁴

In September 2020, the Ministry of Labour, Skills and Training announced a \$757,143 investment in a new Career Ready Fund Auto Stream program led by Ontario Tech University, in partnership with Durham College and Loyalist College.⁵

Also in September, Ontario Tech became the first university to partner with Microsoft Canada in a new program to equip students with "high-demand fundamental digital skills and cloud certifications."⁶

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The *University of Ontario Institute of Technology Act, 2002* (Act) sets out a bicameral form of governance structure: the Board of Governors is responsible for governing and managing the affairs of the university and the Academic Council has responsibility for making recommendations to the Board with respect to academic matters.⁷

Role of the Board of Governors

Under the Act, the role of the Board of Governors includes

- determining the mission, vision and values of the university;
- establishing academic, research, service and institutional policies and plans and controlling the manner in which they are implemented;
- appointing and removing the Chancellor; appointing and removing the President; appointing, promoting, suspending and removing members of the university's teaching staff and administrative staff (all only on the recommendation of the president);

³ UOIT, "[Fast Facts](#)."

⁴ Bryan Oliver, "[That's cool: Ontario Tech tops in the province in Sierra Magazine 'Cool Schools' rankings](#)," news release, October 2, 2020.

⁵ UOIT, "[Career Ready Fund Auto Stream a winning combination for Ontario Tech students and employers seeking new talent](#)," news release, September 25, 2020.

⁶ UOIT, "[Ontario Tech the province's first university to join new Microsoft Canada data analytics and AI skills program](#)," news release, September 2020.

⁷ UOIT, "[Governance](#)."

- establishing faculties, schools, institutes and departments and establishing chairs and councils in any faculty, school, institute or department of the university;
- governing standards for the admission of students to the university and for graduation;
- governing matters arising in connection with the award of fellowships, scholarships, medals, prizes and other awards for academic achievement;
- appointing committees and assigning or delegating to them such duties and responsibilities as may be provided in the by-laws of the university, including authorizing them to act on behalf of the board;
- approving the annual budget of the university and monitoring its implementation;
- establishing and collecting fees and charges for tuition and other services that may be offered by the university;
- regulating the conduct of students, staff and all persons who use the property of the university;
- defining, for the purpose of the by-laws, the following terms: student, staff, employee, manager, professor, associate professor, assistant professor, lecturer, associate, instructor and tutor;
- conclusively determining which body within the university has jurisdiction over any matter;
- determining the manner and procedure for electing student or employee members to the Board, including establishing constituencies and voting practices; and
- making by-laws, resolutions and rules for the conduct of its affairs.⁸

Academic Council

The Academic Council is the governing body representing the academic community of faculty, students, staff and administrators. The Council serves as the principal advisory body to the Board of Governors, exercising authority delegated by the Board with respect to certain matters. In accordance with [Article 1.1 of By-law No. 2](#), the Academic Council has the authority to establish the academic standards and curricular policies and procedures of the University, and to regulate such standards, policies and procedures.⁹

⁸ [University of Ontario Institute of Technology Act, 2002](#), Sec. 9(1).

⁹ UOIT, "[Academic Council](#)."

FUNDING

In 2019-20, the university's basic operating grant from the Province was \$57.4 million (30.1% of the university's total operating budget of \$191 million). Tuition fees from students provide 41.9% of total revenue, with the remaining revenue derived from student ancillary fees, expendable donations and other sources.¹⁰

In January 2019, the Province announced a new **tuition framework** with a 10% tuition reduction for 2019-20 and 2020-21. This left the university with a budget shortfall of \$9 million for 2019-20 and \$12 million for 2020-21.¹¹

The Ministry introduced a new **performance-based funding model** for publicly-assisted universities and colleges in April 2019 to be phased in over three years. Performance metrics include employment and graduation rates, the amount of research and industry funding the institutions receive, and the demonstrated skills of their students.¹²

Each of Ontario's 45 publicly-funded postsecondary institutions has a three-year **Strategic Mandate Agreement (SMA)** with the Ministry of Colleges and Universities for the period 2017-2020. These agreements highlight institutional priorities as well as planned enrolment growth and financial sustainability.¹³

UOIT's [Strategic Mandate Agreement 2017-20](#) ended on March 31, 2020.

THE WITNESS

The witness, of Courtice, is seeking appointment as a part-time member.

According to information provided by the Office of the Premier, Douglas Ellis serves as a member (part-time) for the Council of the College of Chiropractors of Ontario. He is a financial planner for Sun Life Financial, and a senior corporal (rank) for Reservist Canadian Armed Forces.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

What has motivated the witness to seek this appointment?

What is the witness's understanding of the challenges faced by academic institutions such as Ontario Tech University?

What particular skills or interests does the witness bring to the Board of Governors of Ontario Tech University?

¹⁰ UOIT, "[2019-20 Operating Budget](#)," Presentation to Academic Council, May 28, 2019.

¹¹ UOIT, "[2019-20 Operating Budget](#)," Presentation to Academic Council, May 28, 2019.

¹² Joe Friesen, "[New metrics for Ontario university and college funding include employment and graduation rates](#)," *Globe and Mail*, April 16, 2019.

¹³ Ministry of Colleges and Universities, "[Strategic Mandate Agreements](#)."