

Council of Ontario Universities

ONTARIO ONLINE INSTITUTE
 Presented to Ontario Universities Registrars' Association
 MARCH 2011

COUNCIL OF ONTARIO UNIVERSITIES

Overview

- Context
- Recent MTCU directions
- Potential benefits
- Conditions for success
- Initial mandate
- Mature mandate
- Structure
- Universities and colleges
- Next steps

2

COUNCIL OF ONTARIO UNIVERSITIES

Context

- Ontario Online Institute announced in 2010 Throne Speech and Ontario Budget (March, 2010).
- No further details announced.
- COU submitted recommendations to the Province in August, 2010 proposing the mandate, structure, governance and first steps in creating a successful Ontario Online Institute.
- *Achieving the Transformation* is on COU's website.

3

COUNCIL OF ONTARIO
UNIVERSITIES

Recent MTCU directions

- MTCU has announced the appointment of an advisor – Maxim Jean-Louis (CEO of Contact North/elearn network).
- The advisor has a mandate to:
 - Consult widely, and
 - Develop recommendations for implementation of the Ontario Online Institute.

4

COUNCIL OF ONTARIO
UNIVERSITIES

Recent MTCU directions (continued)

- MTCU released a policy framework with the announcement of the advisor.
- The framework specifies that the Ontario Online Institute:
 - Will be a stand-alone not-for-profit corporation;
 - Will **not** be a degree-granting institution; and
 - Will build on existing successes in Ontario among colleges, universities and other organizations.

5

COUNCIL OF ONTARIO
UNIVERSITIES

COU directions

- The following slides set out the recommendations made by COU in August 2010.
 - These recommendations were developed by a working group including Executive Heads, Academic Vice-Presidents, faculty members and others.
- These recommendations form the starting point of dialogue with the MTCU advisor.

6

COUNCIL OF ONTARIO
UNIVERSITIES

Potential Benefits of the OOI

- Expand access – particularly for non-traditional learners.
- More options and more flexibility for all students.
- Enhanced realization of the potential of technology to improve teaching and learning.
- Develop digital literacy skills critical for success in 21st century economy.

7

COUNCIL OF ONTARIO
UNIVERSITIES

Potential benefits (continued)

- Support credit transfer.
- Help improve reputation and “brand” of Ontario universities in other jurisdictions.
- Leverage resources through collaboration.
- Help contain need for capital expansion.

8

COUNCIL OF ONTARIO
UNIVERSITIES

Conditions for success

- Build on existing investments – content and infrastructure.
- Proceed in stages.
- Make funding available to support set-up and ongoing implementation.

9

COUNCIL OF ONTARIO
UNIVERSITIES

Initial Mandate

- Provide leadership to coordinate strategy and implementation.
- Create/expand portal for access to existing online courses and programs.
- Provide integrated e-learning support, including library resources and online/virtual reference services (working with Ontario Council of University Libraries [OCUL] and its Scholars Portal).

10

COUNCIL OF ONTARIO
UNIVERSITIES

Initial Mandate (continued)

- Negotiate consortia licensing agreements that cover joint licensing of media for online courses (with OCUL).
- Work with institutions to:
 - Develop common identity and commons collaboration tools; and
 - Plan systems interoperability (for seamless portal).
- Serve as clearinghouse for licensing of courses developed by one institution for use by others.

11

COUNCIL OF ONTARIO
UNIVERSITIES

Initial Mandate (continued)

- Facilitate agreements on credit equivalency for university online courses; and
- Support joint development of new e-learning versions of high-demand first- and second-year courses
 - and/or upper-year courses where cross-institutional demand makes an online course desirable and feasible.

12

COUNCIL OF ONTARIO
UNIVERSITIES

Mature Mandate

The mature mandate of the Online Institute addresses three dimensions:

1. Facilitate delivery of on-line courses and programs,
2. Facilitate improvements in the use of technology to support teaching and learning (in all contexts), and
3. Facilitate development and maintenance of infrastructure shared by institutions.

13

COUNCIL OF ONTARIO
UNIVERSITIES

Mature Mandate (continued)

With appropriate level of ongoing funding:

- Provide expertise and resources to help institutions:
 - Adopt effective practices, and
 - Develop additional excellent and innovative e-learning courses and programs.
- Facilitate development of comprehensive array of courses and programs.

14

COUNCIL OF ONTARIO
UNIVERSITIES

Mature Mandate (continued)

- Ensure pedagogical effectiveness of e-learning courses and programs delivered by the institute (working with COED).
- Promote sharing of best practices, and support research re online teaching and learning.
- Develop quality assurance standards for design and delivery methods of online instruction.

15

COUNCIL OF ONTARIO
UNIVERSITIES

Mature Mandate (continued)

- Develop credit transfer system for online courses.
- Identify digital copyright issues and solutions and explore joint media and software licensing opportunities.

16

COUNCIL OF ONTARIO
UNIVERSITIES

Mature Mandate (continued)

- Implement (with all of the project technology partners) common identity, collaboration tools, and the necessary systems integration and interoperability to create a seamless portal experience.
- Work with ORION and other infrastructure suppliers to identify additional opportunities and synergies.

17

COUNCIL OF ONTARIO
UNIVERSITIES

Structure

- Ontario universities propose a consortium approach:
 - To make effective use of existing investments,
 - To reduce potential costs of duplication of content and infrastructure,
 - Encourage adoption by institutions, and
 - To maintain quality and value of Ontario university degrees.

18

COUNCIL OF ONTARIO
UNIVERSITIES

Structure (continued)

- Consortium would be modeled on successful collaborations – OUAC and OCUL.
- Consortium would start with a “coalition of the willing.”
- Governance by advisory board of participating institutions, and secretariat staff support (OUAC model).
- Technical infrastructure provided by one institution or a cluster of institutions (Scholars Portal model).

19

COUNCIL OF ONTARIO
UNIVERSITIES

Colleges and Universities

- Ontario universities and colleges have different starting points and shared objectives.
- Collaboration with colleges should develop in a phased approach.
- Phasing should be based on feasibility, to allow meaningful and rapid progress in both sectors.
- Ontario universities are willing to explore implementation options with colleges.
- (MTCU advisor’s mandate will include both sectors.)

20

COUNCIL OF ONTARIO
UNIVERSITIES

Next steps

- COU’s Online Learning Working Group will continue to develop recommendations to guide implementation recommendations.
- COU’s Credit Transfer Resource Group will continue to explore options and develop recommendations (working with Registrars) to support credit transfer for online courses.

21

COUNCIL OF ONTARIO
UNIVERSITIES

Questions and comments?

For further information, please contact
Peter Gooch
pgooch@cou.on.ca
(416) 979 2165 ext 209

22
