



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Faculty Council of April 17, 2015

**From:** Professor Edgar Acosta  
Chair, Community Affairs & Gender Issues Committee

**Date:** April 2, 2015

**Re:** Community Affairs & Gender Issues Committee Update

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### REPORT CLASSIFICATION

This is a routine or minor policy matter that was approved by the Executive Committee on March 25, 2015 as a verbal update, for forwarding to Faculty Council for information.

### UPDATE

The mandate of the Community Affairs & Gender Issues Committee is to seek to improve and to recommend on strategies related to student recruitment and outreach, and the quality of life within the Faculty community.

At its February 9, 2015 meeting, the committee discussed the current state of affairs in terms of gender diversity in the Faculty. There are reasons for celebration after ongoing efforts by various offices of the Faculty led to record increases in female student enrolment. The committee discussed various alternatives to support this momentum and agreed on two priority initiatives.

The first initiative is to conduct a student survey – more detailed than the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) – that will allow the Faculty to establish a baseline of the current climate and identify any potential trouble spots. The last such survey was conducted in 1990.

The second initiative is to enhance outreach by better connecting the research done by our faculty, alumni and students to the broader community. This can be done by producing quality video demos of our research efforts, and coordinating with the Toronto District School Board to introduce them into elementary and high school classrooms. As part of this second initiative, the committee will help coordinate efforts between Outreach and the funding agencies that mandate outreach activities, for better alignment with the Faculty's priorities. The committee also agreed to support the Engineering Diversity Initiative led by the First Year Office and the Engineering Positive Space Committee.

### PROPOSAL/MOTION

For information.