

City of Mississauga Corporate Report



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| <p>Date: May 9, 2023</p> <p>To: Chair and Members of General Committee</p> | <p>Originator's files:</p> |
| <p>From: Shari Lichterman, CPA, CMA, City Manager and Chief Administrative Officer</p> | <p>Meeting date: May 24, 2023</p> |

Subject

Collaborating for the Future – City and University of Toronto Mississauga Memorandum of Understanding

Recommendation

That the Mayor and City Clerk or designate be authorized to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between The Corporation of the City of Mississauga and The Governing Council of the University of Toronto, as represented by the University of Toronto Mississauga, and any necessary amendments and ancillary documents, as outlined in the corporate report entitled “Collaborating for the Future – City and University of Toronto Mississauga Memorandum of Understanding”, dated May 9, 2023, from the Acting City Manager and Chief Administrative Officer, in a form satisfactory to Legal Services.

Executive Summary

- The City and the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) have a longstanding positive relationship, working together on many initiatives.
- Strategic collaborations between the City and UTM have created new opportunities and ways to work together.
- Together the City and UTM can achieve shared priorities towards the betterment of Mississauga and UTM.
- A memorandum of understanding (MOU) is an appropriate framework to establish a foundation for this future relationship.

Background

With UTM's establishment in Mississauga dating back to 1965, both the City and UTM have grown and evolved through the years, along with their working relationship. There have been many positive outcomes as a result of this relationship.

In particular, the City's Economic and Development Office (EDO) has had a longstanding relationship with UTM with a view to expanding and sustaining the City's innovation economy. This focus has led to identified opportunities for skills and program development in areas of talent needs in the local and regional economy. As an example, Mississauga's Life Sciences Consortium, UTM and local business worked together to create the UTM IMix Pharma Certificate in 2020 in response to a skills shortage in the industry. EDO and UTM continue to grow the entrepreneur ecosystem through EDO's IDEA Mississauga role supporting start-ups in concert with ICUBE UTM (Inspiration, Ideation, Innovation hub at UTM).

Research collaborations between the City and UTM and University of Toronto (U of T) have been and will be instrumental for the City to move forward on initiatives. The City is developing a Mississauga Diabetes Strategy in collaboration with, and utilizing the UTM's Novo Nordisk Network for Healthy Populations research expertise. As part of Cities Changing Diabetes, Council committed to help prevent diabetes in signing the Urban Diabetes Declaration. The City's MiWay is working towards a research partnership and collaboration with the U of T Transit Analytics Lab for feasibility studies of on-route charging and on-demand transit. These transit projects are priorities to enable the City to meet the Mississauga Climate Change Action Plan of zero emissions by 2050.

The City has also benefited from UTM's experiential learning programs through intern placements and capstone projects completed by students. In some instances, these opportunities have created a talent pipeline for the City where students have been hired into full time City positions.

Mississauga and UTM have worked closely together on many projects and initiatives, including: 2022 Ontario Summer Games partnership; Library Services' "Lecture Me" series with UTM Faculty; "The Work of Wind, Air, Land, Sea" environmental art festival and public engagement; MiWay Universal Transit Pass for UTM students; Mississauga Fire and Emergency Services Fire safety education for post-secondary students including providing free smoke and CO2 alarms.

Comments

The UTM's Strategic Framework combined with the President's Three Priorities for the U of T set the foundation to expand the nature and scope of working together. The President's Three Priorities are to "leverage our urban location(s) more fully, for the mutual benefit of University and City; strengthen and deepen key international partnerships by means of a well-defined strategic focus; and re-imagine and reinvent undergraduate education".

The City's Strategic Plan and implementing strategies, such as the Mississauga Economic Development Strategy, recommend harnessing the significant innovation potential of the University and building on the University's significant contributions within the city's social and urban landscape.

The City and UTM's positive working relationship continues to expand and lead to new initiatives. The formalization of this relationship through a MOU is appropriate at this time to look to future opportunities and meet shared goals.

The proposed MOU between the City and UTM will address such matters as:

- Shared goals of promoting Truth and Reconciliation, combatting racism, advancing a prosperous future, building sustainable communities and fostering healthy populations
- Collaborating on strategic initiatives including:
 - Advancing equity, diversity and inclusion
 - Promoting innovation and research support across the University's three campuses
 - Considering City capacity building
 - Exploring experiential learning opportunities
 - Promoting connections of the teaching mission with local economy needs
 - Expanding the entrepreneurship ecosystem
 - Coordinating international industry and business engagement
 - Aligning joint advocacy on shared priorities
 - Inspiring student engagement in the city
 - Showcasing thought leaders and experts
- Creating a Strategic Collaborations Table to drive future planning for strategic initiatives. The Table's core membership will include City directors of Strategic Communications & Initiatives and Economic Development along with UTM's director of External Relations. Expanded membership will evolve relative to the strategic initiatives under review.
- Establishing a process, through an Operational Collaboration Table, to address local and operational collaborations within the "neighbourhood" including the student experience, transit, housing, noise, health and safety, fire and enforcement. The membership of this Table will include the City and UTM directors identified for the Collaborations Table and additional as needed to represent and take action on identified matters.

Roles and responsibilities related to the MOU implementation over a five-year renewable period, regular meetings, and reports to City Council and the UTM Campus Council.

Strategic Plan

The proposed MOU formalizes and enhances the City's relationship with UTM helping the City to achieve the Strategic Plan's transformative actions around fueling the innovation economy and retaining and attracting youth, aligned with the Prosper and Belong pillars.

Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts associated with this report.

Conclusion

The City and UTM have a long history of working together to achieve mutually beneficial results. UTM's contributions to Mississauga's social, economic and urban environments are instrumental to the city's bright future. The execution of a MOU between the City and UTM will be an important milestone to establishing a strong foundation to leverage future opportunities to meet shared goals.



Shari Lichterman, CPA, CMA, City Manager and Chief Administrative Officer

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