 EXHIBIT V

Council of Ontario Universities
Report to Senate of the Academic Colleague
Kathleen Okruhlik, November 2012

The COU Academic Colleagues met in Toronto October 11-12, 2012. There was a meeting of the full Council on October 12th.

Resignation of the Minister: Glen Murray resigned from cabinet on November 3, 2012 in order to run as a candidate for the leadership of the Ontario Liberal Party. Since this was after the October COU meeting, there was no discussion of what would happen next with respect to the leadership of MTCU (or any impact on issues discussed below).

Stakeholder Responses to Ministry Consultations: Bonnie Patterson, President and CEO of COU, presented a slideshow that summarized and compared stakeholder responses to the recent round of Ministry consultations. The six items immediately below summarize the COU response and compare that response to those from other stakeholders.

Online Education: COU will establish a consortium to leverage existing online courses, expertise, and infrastructure. (This is the model COU prefers to the establishment of a free-standing degree-granting "online university".)

Support for Universities: COU will focus on helping member universities in their efforts to innovate (quickly) in the following areas: learning outcome assessment, experiential learning, credit transfer, and degree supplements.

Best practices: COU will help member universities share best practices in teaching and learning as well as in the area of efficiencies and productivity.

Other Shareholders: These include OPSEU, CUPE, OCUFA, OUSA, CFS-O, and Colleges Ontario. In some areas, there is broad agreement among stakeholders; in other areas, not so much.

Areas of Broad Consensus: COU cites (1) agreement among stakeholders that funding should not be tied to learning outcomes, (2) support for COU's online consortium structure (non-degree granting, built on existing resources), and (3) support for four-year degree structure and its benefits.

Other Areas: COU is concerned about the potential impact of the colleges' pitch to offer three-year degrees (not diplomas) and to use "honors" to describe four-year degree programs. The Council is also worried about the amount of investment required for high-quality stand-alone nursing programs at colleges. And it notes the tension between the rhetorics of "sameness" and "differentiation" that permeate present discussions.

New COU Update: This one is dated November 7th and is available (to Senators only). Please email Marci Oswald if you would like her to send you an electronic copy.

I regret having to miss the November meeting of Senate but will be pleased to answer questions by email: <okruhlik@uwo.ca>.