



**FOR CONFIRMATION**

**PUBLIC**

**CLOSED SESSION**

**TO:** Executive Committee

**SPONSOR:** Cheryl Regehr, Vice-President & Provost  
**CONTACT INFO:** (416) 978-2122, [provost@utoronto.ca](mailto:provost@utoronto.ca)

**PRESENTER:** See above  
**CONTACT INFO:**

**DATE:** June 4, 2015 for June 15, 2015

**AGENDA ITEM:** 7

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

Change in the name of the Faculty of Arts and Science *Department of Geography*, to *Department of Geography and Planning*.

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

Name changes in academic divisions (excluding namings) are considered by the Academic Board and confirmed by the Executive Committee. (*AB Terms of Reference, Section 5.2.7*)

**GOVERNANCE PATH:**

1. Academic Board [for approval] - June 1, 2015
2. **Executive Committee [for confirmation] - June 15, 2015**

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

None.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

This is a proposal to change the name of the Faculty of Arts and Science *Department of Geography* to the *Department of Geography and Planning*.

It is the intention of the proposal for the Faculty of Arts and Science department and the Tri-Campus graduate unit to continue to have the same name. The proposed name change should be understood to apply to both.

The Faculty of Arts and Science undergraduate program offers a course cluster in Planning within the Human Geography Major and Specialist programs of study. The Tri-Campus

Graduate Department of Geography offers the following programs: Geography (PhD, MA, MSc); Planning (MScPl, PhD).

The proposed name change will better reflect the nature of research and teaching undertaken by faculty members at both the St. George unit and across the broader Tri-Campus unit. The Faculty of Arts and Science and Graduate Tri-Campus units have been known unofficially as the Department of Geography and Program in Planning since the 1980s when the Planning graduate program became a part of the department. At that time, faculty members teaching in the Master's degree in Planning moved from the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, then an independent unit administered by the School of Graduate Studies, to the Department of Geography.

This proposal was subject to extensive consultation with all three campuses as detailed in the proposal.

The proposal was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Science Faculty Council on April 17, 2015.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Any financial resources required to implement the name change will be absorbed within the normal annual Faculty budget allocation for promotional and communications projects and materials and office supplies. The name change will be incorporated in external communications in the normal course of updating such materials.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Be It Confirmed

THAT the name of the Faculty of Arts and Science *Department of Geography* be changed to *Department of Geography and Planning* effective immediately upon approval.

---

#### **DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:**

- *Proposal to change the name of the Department of Geography to the Department of Geography and Planning*



**Proposal to change the name of the *Department of Geography*  
to the *Department of Geography and Planning***

*May 1, 2015*

The Department of Geography proposes to change the Faculty of Arts & Science and Graduate Tri-Campus names to the “Department of Geography and Planning” in order to better reflect the nature of research and teaching undertaken by faculty members at both the St. George unit and across the broader Tri-Campus unit. The department is recognized as a centre of leading-edge scholarship in urbanization, global climate change science, and critical theories of Geography and Planning, with a regional focus on Canada and Asia.

Both the Faculty of Arts & Science and Graduate Tri-Campus units have been known unofficially as the Department of Geography and Program in Planning since the 1980s when the Planning graduate program became a part of the department. At that time, faculty members teaching in the Master's degree in Planning moved from the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, then an independent unit administered by the School of Graduate Studies, to the Department of Geography. About one-third of the faculty members at the St. George unit have appointments in Planning, meaning that most of the courses that they teach are in the graduate program in Planning.

Planning has a presence in programs of study at both the St. George and Tri-Campus units. The Faculty of Arts & Science undergraduate program offers a course cluster in Planning within the Human Geography Major and Specialist programs of study. At the graduate level, the department has two distinct programs: one in Geography (PhD, MA, MSc) and one in Planning (MScPl, PhD). The Master of Science in Planning (MScPl) is a two-year professional degree and graduated its first students from the department in 1984. In 2007, the department added the PhD in Planning. Approximately 120 students are enrolled in the Geography program and about 80 in the Planning program.

About half of the department's graduate courses (not including courses in physical geography) are joint Planning-Geography courses (JPG) and count as credit toward either program. The reason for this is that the fields of Geography and Planning are closely related in many ways and faculty members with expertise in both areas are able to offer courses that are relevant for both groups of students. Faculty members from all three campuses teach JPG courses. Supervisors and supervisory committee members for both Geography and Planning students also come from all three campuses.

At the St. George campus, our faculty members research a broad range of issues in the fields of urban, environmental, social, and economic planning. These issues include active transportation, green infrastructure, urban sustainability, declining cities, the social economy, public participation, urban design, and planning in the Global South. Faculty members from the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) and University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC) are also engaged in research on many of these topics, plus others such as planning for accessibility, land use modeling, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

The Department has consulted about a name change with faculty members on the three campuses, with both the graduate and undergraduate student societies and with the Geography (University of Toronto Association of Geography Alumni) and Planning (Planning Alumni Committee) alumni associations. Three possible names for the department were discussed: *Department of Geography*, *Department of Geography and Program in Planning*, and *Department of Geography and Planning*. All of those consulted felt that Planning should be in the department's name and virtually all agreed that the simpler *Department of Geography and Planning* was best. From the perspective of graduate students, it is notable that the graduate student association has been known as the Graduate Geography & Planning Student Society (GGAPSS) since Planning joined Geography in the 1980s. The Dean and faculty of the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design reviewed the proposal, and discussed it with colleagues. He was willing to support the proposal for the name change, with the qualification that planning must be understood as a broad discipline and that members of the Daniels Faculty also engage in planning-related research and practice. Under the banner of urbanism, and through their work, for example in Urban Design and Landscape Architecture (at a large scale) as well as through other forms of design and computation, including health and design, Daniels faculty are engaged in what many would consider to be key aspects of the planning disciplines.

The addition of another discipline to a Geography department and to its name is quite common and a growing trend. In the US, Canada and the UK, just under half of the 280 Geography departments are Geography 'Plus' departments, with Environment being the most common addition to a department's name. Notable Geography 'Plus' units outside Canada include the *School of Geography and Environment* at Oxford University and the *Department of Geography and Environment* at LSE. In Canada, there are 42 Departments of Geography of which 16 are Geography 'Plus' departments. Among those, 13 are Geography and Environment, one is Geography and Planning (Saskatchewan), and one is Geography, Planning and Environment (Concordia). Queen's University's Department of Geography and its School of Urban and Regional Planning amalgamated this year and are considering a name change to the Department of Geography and Planning.

A formal resolution to change the name of the St. George department and the Graduate department was passed by the St. George Department at a St. George Council meeting on April 7, 2015 and by the Tri-Campus Graduate Department at a Tri-Campus Council meeting on April 7, 2015. The Faculty of Arts & Science Council approved the name change for the St. George Department on April 17, 2015.

There are no implications for the names of the undergraduate or graduate degrees currently offered by the department. The existing Arts & Science undergraduate degree will continue to be labeled 'Geography' while the existing tri-campus graduate degrees will continue to be labeled 'Geography' for the PhD, MA, and MSc degrees in Geography, and 'Planning' for the MSc and PhD degrees in Planning.

Any financial resources required to implement the name change will be absorbed within the Department. The name change will be incorporated in external communications in the normal course of updating such materials. The name change is proposed to be effective pending university governance approval.