

**EXCERPT FROM REPORT NUMBER 152 OF THE COMMITTEE ON
ACADEMIC POLICY AND PROGRAMS – September 20, 2011**

**7. Faculty of Arts and Science and School of Graduate Studies: Doctor of
Philosophy Program in Cinema Studies**

Professor Regehr presented the proposal from the Faculty of Arts and Science for a four-year, full-time doctoral degree program in Cinema Studies – a proposal she described as a very exciting one. Pursuant to the new quality-assurance process, the program proposal had been the subject of an external review, in this case by scholars from New York University and the University of Michigan. The reviewers had described the program as rigorous, serious and solid, building on the strength of the undergraduate and Master's degree programs currently offered. They had observed that the University of Toronto enjoyed a comparative advantage in offering the program, arising from the international reputation of its faculty in Cinema Studies and their highly regarded contributions to the discipline.

Among the matters that arose in discussion were the following.

(a) Funding for students. A member observed that because the program was described as a four-year one, the Faculty of Arts and Science would be required to ensure funding packages at the doctoral level for only four years rather than five. He asked whether the faculty in Cinema Studies would be able to generate sufficient funding from research grants to provide the research assistantships needed to support students in the proposed program. Professor Baker replied that the faculty in the discipline were very strong and generated significant funding for research. Moreover, the Faculty of Arts and Science tailored its requirements for student-support funding from research assistantships to particular units, and it supplied other student-support funding in disciplines where sufficient funding was not available from research grants. The Faculty of Arts and Science was fully prepared to deal with the cost of the proposed program, including the cost of student financial support.

(b) Connection with the film industry in Toronto. A member observed that Toronto had become a very important centre in the field of cinema, as evidenced by the international reputation of the Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF). He asked whether the Cinema Studies program had any links with the industry. Invited to respond, Professor Keil said that the program's orientation was primarily academic. It had been the case, however, that many graduates from the Master's degree program had gone on to employment in the industry. It was fortuitous that the TIFF had been expanding in recent years, and a number of graduates of the program had found employment there. The TIFF was an important resource for the program. It had significant archival holdings, and TIFF, along with the program,

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had established a seminar series which dealt with conceptual as well as industrial aspects of film.

A member spoke in strong support of the proposal. He had some years ago served on a number of occasions as decanal representative on searches for faculty in Cinema Studies. It had been very satisfying to see the maturation and growth of the discipline at the University, and the proposal to establish a doctoral program – an aspiration from early in the history of the discipline – represented a great moment for the University and for Cinema Studies.

On motion duly made, seconded and carried,

YOUR COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS

THAT the Ph.D. Program in Cinema Studies, as described in the proposal from the Faculty of Arts and Science dated September 8, 2011, be approved, effective for the academic year 2012-13.