



TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

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DATE: September 12, 2011 for September 20, 2011

AGENDA ITEM: 7

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Proposal for a new Ph.D. Cinema Studies, Faculty of Arts and Science

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs has the authority to recommend to the Academic Board for approval new graduate programs and degrees.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The M.A. in Cinema Studies was approved by Governing Council on March 29, 2007.

HIGHLIGHTS:

This is a proposal for a four year, full-time doctoral degree program in Cinema Studies, being brought forward by the Faculty of Arts and Science. The proposed program will build on the existing B.A. and M.A. degree programs in Cinema Studies offered by the Cinema Studies Institute at Innis College.

The Ph.D. in Cinema Studies is designed to address the changing role of moving image media within global culture, studying past and present configurations of Cinema Studies through a constellation of theoretical, textual, social, and historical rubrics. The program is highly integrative, synthesizing textual and contextual study, theory, and social and cultural practice while understanding the multiple and intersecting histories of the cinematic as deeply imbricated in current debates and trends in Cinema Studies. The program is structured to provide students with shared, advanced training in the study of Cinema Studies and a rigorous and substantive background in the theory, history, and cultural practice related to the field.

Demand for the proposed five spaces each year is expected to be robust based on demand for the existing MA program, the quality of those applicants, and the percentage of graduates who go on to doctoral work elsewhere. It is anticipated that graduates of the program will find employment

not only within universities but also with archives, cinematheques, publishers, film festivals, professional associations, production facilities, and government policy and funding offices.

The proposed program is the result of a highly consultative process involving all core faculty as well as graduate and undergraduate students. At the same time, the proponents consulted closely with cognate St. George, UTM and UTSC units who have been very supportive as outlined in the proposal

The program was subject to external appraisal on June 3, 2011 and received a very positive report from Dana Polan (NYU) and Abé Mark Nornes (University of Michigan). The final proposal received approval from the Tri-Campus Graduate Committee on September 8, 2011.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS: Any new/additional financial obligations resulting from this program will be met at the Faculty/Divisional level.

RECOMMENDATION:

Be it recommended to the Academic Board:

THAT the proposed PhD 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 2012-2013.