



TO: Planning and Budget Committee

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AGENDA ITEM: 8

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Proposal to establish the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation as an EDU: A, Faculty of Medicine.

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Planning and Budget Committee is responsible for making recommendations to the Academic Board on plans and proposals to establish, disestablish, or significantly restructure academic units, here defined as "faculties, schools, colleges, departments, centres and institutes with teaching, or teaching and research functions, undergraduate degree programs, and graduate degree programs," regardless of the source of funds. (*Terms of Reference, Section 4.4.1*)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

HIGHLIGHTS:

The Faculty of Medicine has an existing Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation. This is a proposal to change the status of that Department to an EDU:A and rename it the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation. The Institute will continue to offer the same educational programs (credit and continuing education) as are currently offered by the Department.

As the proposal underlines, strong and relevant research and teaching in this area is necessarily the product of informed debate and exchange of ideas across disciplines, professions, sectors, agencies, and institutions. The transition to EDU:A status is seen as an opportunity to develop and formalize the collaborations and partnerships the Department currently has with other units within the University and with the larger health and community care sectors, thus creating an academic culture and organizational structure that is inherently multi and interdisciplinary. By moving to an Institute structure, HPME will be more integrated with the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, an important move as the Dalla Lana School itself embarks on a trajectory that will see it becoming more independent from the Faculty of Medicine.

It is anticipated that the breadth of collaboration and inter-professional and interdisciplinary linkages will result in new program initiatives and new research projects and collaborations. The status as an EDU:A is also expected to help the unit expand its leadership role within the sector at large.

As set out in the University's Guidelines for Administrative Functions and Protocols of Extra-Departmental Units (2007) an EDU:A is characterized by a "well-established and defined area of scholarship" and has attained a "critical mass of interdisciplinary scholarship at the University that allows for the unit to engage in the appointment of teaching staff, admit students to a program of study, and engage in interdisciplinary research." The proposed unit more than meets these criteria.

This proposal to change the status of the existing department was the product of extensive internal and external consultation as outlined in Appendix 2 of the proposal. The proposal was approved by the Faculty of Medicine Council on June 20, 2011.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

The change in the status of the Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation to an EDU:A will have no implications for the current department's core faculty or for any cross-appointed, status, or adjunct members of the unit.

Students in the graduate programs offered by the Department will not be affected by the change in status to an EDU:A.

The proposed change will not affect existing budget allocations to the unit from the Faculty of Medicine. The base budget of the unit will continue to be linked to graduate enrolment, research overhead and endowments. All revenues and costs associated with the Institute will continue to be part of the budget of the Faculty of Medicine and will be subject to the budgetary procedures of the Faculty.

The change in status to an EDU:A does not require additional space allocation.

RECOMMENDATION:

Be It Recommended to the Academic Board:

THAT the status of the existing Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation in the Faculty of Medicine be changed to an EDU:A named the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation effective immediately.