



TO: Planning and Budget Committee

SPONSOR: Sally Garner

CONTACT INFO: 416-978-2819, sally.garner@utoronto.ca

DATE: October 12, 2011 for November 2, 2012

AGENDA ITEM: 5

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Proposal to change the status of the Cinema Studies Institute from an Extra-Departmental Unit B (EDU:B) to an EDU:A, effective January 1, 2012, Faculty of Arts and Science

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:

The Cinema Studies Institute was established as an EDU:B in 2007 when the new M.A. in Cinema Studies was brought forward, building on the more than 30 year history of the college-based undergraduate program in Cinema Studies.

HIGHLIGHTS:

This proposal to change the status of the existing Cinema Studies Institute from an Extra-Departmental Unit: B to an EDU:A is seen as a natural progression in the maturation of the unit which is in the process of seeking approval for a PhD in Cinema Studies (which received Academic Board approval October 6).

The Institute currently offers a BA in Cinema Studies to over 300 program students and over 50 courses devoted to film and media study which attract some 1,500 undergraduate enrolments per year. The M.A. in Cinema Studies is a year-long program offered to fifteen students annually.

The proposal to change the status of the Institute is seen as a recognition that it possesses the well-established and defined area of scholarship and critical mass of research activity required of an EDU:A. The Faculty of Arts and Science expects that the status of an EDU:A will facilitate CSI's growing research ambitions and help establish it as "The nation's pre-eminent centre for the study and teaching of cinema."

Tenure-stream teaching staff in the Institute currently all hold minority cross-appointments and are based in a diverse range of academic units. At the same time there are a number of Lecturers who hold majority appointments to Innis College and teach in the undergraduate Cinema Studies program. Status as an EDU: A will allow the Institute to be the unit of primary appointment of tenure-stream faculty which is seen as an important step in the context of the proposed PhD.

Consultation with core faculty, students and the chairs of all departments with which CSI has contractual cross-appointments (French, English, German Languages and Literatures, History at St. George and Visual Studies at UTM) has occurred. Both the proposal document and a cover letter offering additional explanation of the proposed change of status were sent out early in September to all the heads of units affiliated with CSI. Responses to the proposal have indicated enthusiastic endorsement of this initiative. The proposal was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Science Council on 3 October, 2011.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

The proposed change in status of the Cinema Studies Institute will not have an impact on budget allocations from the Faculty of Arts and Science. All revenues and costs associated with CSI will continue to be part of the budget of the Faculty of Arts and Science 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. Students in undergraduate and graduate programs associated with the Institute will not be affected by the change in status.

As noted in the body of the proposal, the Cinema Studies Institute and Innis College entered into a Memorandum of Agreement in 2010 intended to help maintain the mutually beneficial relationship that has been established between the two.

RECOMMENDATION:

Be It Recommended to the Academic Board:

THAT the status of the existing Cinema Studies Institute be changed from an Extra-Departmental Unit: B (EDU: B) to an Extra-Departmental Unit: A (EDU: A) effective January 1, 2012.