



# UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Office of the Vice-Provost, Planning and Budget

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## MEMORANDUM

February 26, 2002

**To:** Planning and Budget Committee

**From:** Derek McCammond, Vice-Provost, Planning and Budget

### Item Identification

Establishment of the Asian Institute by the School of Graduate Studies and the Faculty of Arts and Science.

### Sponsor

Derek McCammond, Vice-Provost, Planning and Budget

### Jurisdictional Information

The Committee recommends on plans and proposals to establish academic units, including Centres and Institutes.

### Highlights

The proposal to establish an Asian Institute is driven by the need to provide a locus for the coherent development of Asian research, teaching, and community outreach at the University. The unit will coordinate programs and activities including the Centre for South Asian Studies, the Dr. David Chu Program in Asia Pacific Studies, the Collaborative Program in South Asian Studies, the Collaborative Program in Asia Pacific Studies and the seminar on Central and Inner Asia.

### Resource Implications

The Provost is proposing to provide funding of \$33,000/year for the first three years to cover approximately one-third of the Institute's expenses, specifically for: 1) salary for an administrative assistant; 2) phones/supplies and miscellaneous; and 3) conferences and other related expenses. Currently, the Director's salary is paid from the Dr. David Chu Professorship in Asia-Pacific Studies and from other divisional funds. The administrative complement at the Munk Centre for International Studies will provide accounting, special events, and IT infrastructure support for the Institute. SGS and the Faculty of Arts and Science are covering all other costs for the first three years of the Institute's existence. It is expected that, in the future, endowment funds will support the work of the Institute. Funding for the operations of the Institute as well as a Chair in Hong Kong Studies are a joint initiative in the Campaign priorities for SGS and the Faculty of Arts and Science.

### Recommendation

That the Planning and Budget Committee recommends to the Academic Board approval of the establishment of the Asian Institute, reporting jointly to the School of Graduate Studies and the Faculty of Arts and Science, effective immediately.

## Revised Motion

### School of Graduate Studies Council Tuesday, October 16, 2001

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Item 7.

**MOTION** (   /   ) **THAT** SGS Council approve the proposal for the establishment of the Asian Institute, jointly administered by the School of Graduate Studies and the Faculty of Arts and Science, effective July 1, 2001, for an initial term of three years, pending similar approval of the Faculty of Arts and Science.

During the third year of operations, the Institute will be subject to a joint review, and a search for a new director will be conducted jointly by the School of Graduate Studies and the Faculty of Arts and Science.

For governance purposes within the School of Graduate Studies, the Asian Institute will reside within Division II, the Social Sciences.

#### **RATIONALE:**

Specialists in the Asian field and academic administrators have been discussing the idea of an Asian Institute for many years. Models of such institutes exist elsewhere – notably at UBC – and we have from time to time considered the possibility of setting up such a structure here.

For some time it has also been recognized that the University of Toronto needs to raise its profile in the study of Asia. Two years ago, UofT's Donnelly-Bogo task force report, *An Asia Pacific Strategy for the University of Toronto*, lamented that "there is no articulated role, no long-term plan, no commonly shared view of what the University community should try to accomplish with regard to the Asia Pacific region." It is widely believed that these comments also apply, more broadly, to the entire Asian field -- certainly in terms of graduate study and research.

Thinking about the Asian Institute matured as a result of the January 30, 2001 report of the external assessors who reviewed our Joint Centre for Asia Pacific Studies (JCAPS), a centre established with York University in 1974. Responding to specific questions put about the study of Asia at the University of Toronto, the reviewers recommended that we establish such an institute here. The external consultants asked to review the JCAPS observed that neither the University of Toronto, nor our York University partner, "have a coherent strategy for the study of Asia." The consultants went on to say "both universities require internal organizations to plan and advocate the coherent development of Asian Studies in teaching, research and community outreach." They also made the case that "'Asia,' rather than 'Asia Pacific' is

the appropriate label for such internal organizations, involving South Asia as well as East and Southeast Asia."

After extensive consultation with colleagues associated with JCAPS as well as others in the Asian field the deans of SGS and Arts and Science decided to move forward with this idea. Support for the proposal was virtually unanimous. The endorsement of the Provost was secured. Professor Janice Stein, the director of the Munk Centre for International Studies, agreed to receive a new tenant.

Through extensive consultation, the deans of SGS and Arts and Science refined a model of the Asian Institute with a unique reporting and governance structure. Attached is a description of the Institute. This description received provostial approval last spring, and the Provost agreed to a budgetary allocation to the Asian Institute for the next three years based on the current understanding. The deans of SGS and Arts and Science established a search committee to seek a director of the Asian Institute. Our choice was Professor Michael Donnelly, the Dr. David Chu Professor of Asia Pacific Studies.

Since the Institute has a unique reporting relationship, it does not fit neatly within the reporting guidelines and other processes established for SGS centres and institutes. One of the tasks of the new director will be to propose such processes to the deans of Arts and Science and SGS, and the Dean will be reporting to Council on these matters as well as on the progress of building this new institute.

**NOTE:**

With SGS Council's approval and pending similar approval of the Faculty of Arts and Science, this item will go to Governing Council committees for information.

*See Framework document attached*

(Revised)

## ASIAN INSTITUTE

1. The University of Toronto is establishing an Asian Institute, to be housed in the Munk Centre. Its director will report to the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies and the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science.

2. The purpose of the Asian Institute will be to link, promote, and in some specific instances will administer the University's teaching, and assist research on Asia. The Institute will coordinate the activities of the Centre for South Asian Studies, the Central and Inner Asian Seminar, the Dr. David Chu Program in Asia-Pacific Studies, the Collaborative Program in South Asian Studies, and the Collaborative Program in Asia-Pacific Studies. The directors of each of these teaching programs will work together with the Director of the Asian Institute, and the directors of the Centre for South Asian Studies and the Central and Inner Asian Seminar will work with the director in the discharge of their mandates.

3. The director of the Asian Institute will take charge of the process of resolving the University of Toronto's relationship with Joint Centre for Asia Pacific Studies and will work with the Dean of Graduate Studies, the Provost and colleagues at York University, to determine the how to facilitate cooperation between the two institutions.

4. The director of the Asian Institute will be advised by a Council of Asian Studies made up of the directors of the various centres and programs operating under its mandate, plus the chair of the Department of East Asian Studies. The deans of SGS, Arts and Science and the director of the Munk Centre will each be represented on the Council of Asian Studies.

5. The director of the Asian Institute, in consultation with the relevant directors of its constituent centres may from time to time recommend changes in the terms of reference of those centres and the teaching programs to the deans of Arts and Science and/or the School of Graduate Studies, as appropriate. The director will also recommend, whenever appropriate, changes in the membership of the consortium.

6. The director of the Asian Institute will advise the dean of Arts and Science and deans of other divisions, where appropriate, regarding appointments in the area of Asian Studies.

7. The Asian Institute will serve as a focus for pan-Asian research, and other collaborative projects, including work on the Asian diaspora, of its constituent organizations.

8. The director of the Asian Institute will work with the University Library to build, maintain and set priorities for the Library's collections in the areas of Asian Studies.

9. In collaboration with the director of the Munk Centre, the director of the Asian Institute will be responsible for the allocation of those offices in the Munk Centre devoted to Asian studies.

10. The Asian Institute will have a website that will provide a gateway to Asian Studies at the University of Toronto, and coordinated links, in a single location, to the constituent organizations and their activities, research projects, inter-institutional

collaboration, funding opportunities, student recruitment and exchanges, scholarships, degree programs, course offerings, conferences, symposia, lectures, seminars, prizes, visitors, and community activities. With the Munk Centre, it will also provide website support for its constituent members.

11. The Asian Institute will provide support for other publications and community and scholarly outreach associated with research projects, inter-institutional collaboration, funding opportunities, student recruitment and exchanges, scholarships, degree programs, course offerings, conferences, symposia, lectures, seminars, scholarships, prizes, visitors, and community activities.

12. The Asian Institute will be the focus for the University's publicity and fundraising for Asian Studies and related student support, working with the advancement officers of the School of Graduate Studies and the Faculty of Arts and Science as appropriate. At the same time, the constituent elements of the Asian Institute will have the capacity on their own to raise funds and administer endowments devoted to particular purposes and projects associated with their specific terms of reference.

June 20, 2001  
(revised October 11, 2001)