



TO: Planning and Budget Committee

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DATE: May 10, 2005
AGENDA ITEM: 12

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Proposal to Establish a Joint SGS/Arts and Science Centre for Environment as an EDU-2 unit

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Excerpt from the terms of reference for the Planning and Budget Committee:

4.4.2. The Committee advises the Academic Board on the planning and resource implications of plans and proposals to establish, disestablish or significantly restructure academic programs. Those implications might include significant planning and budgetary changes within the division or significant effects on other divisions, the University as a whole and the public.

HIGHLIGHTS:

In order to strengthen and highlight the wealth of environmental teaching and research at the University and to improve the collaboration among environmental units, the Institute for Environmental Studies (IES), Division of Environment (DoE) and Innis College's Environmental Studies Program propose to combine their resources to create a new graduate and undergraduate teaching and research entity, to be named The University of Toronto Centre for Environment. The Centre will offer core, interdisciplinary courses and programs, building on existing curricula within the three units.

The creation of the Centre is presented in response to a proposal drawn up by members across various programs and departments as part of the *Stepping UP* planning process, and resonates with the Provost's identification of environmental studies as one of five areas of academic priority within the University in the current planning cycle. The existence of the Centre will greatly enhance the profile of environmental teaching and research across the University of Toronto. By working more closely together, the Division of the Environment, Innis College Environmental Studies Program and the graduate Institute for Environmental Studies will be able to utilize resources more efficiently.

The Institute for Environmental Studies, with its several graduate programs, will be lodged within the new Centre. The Director of the Centre will be jointly appointed by and will jointly report to the Deans of SGS and A&S. Other details of the administrative structure of the new unit are outlined in the attached proposal. For the 2005-2006 academic year, the budget for the Institute will reside with SGS and the budget for the Innis College undergraduate Environmental Studies Program will remain under authority of the Faculty of Arts and Science. The Director of the Centre for Environment will have access to both. Budgetary and academic arrangements between SGS and A&S are being reviewed, and all arrangements will be finalized prior to planning for the 2006-07 academic year.

The Centre for Environment will continue to occupy the same space that is currently associated with the administrative units involved. The Centre may possibly work to consolidate its activities, although a specific space program and implementation plan has not been completed.

The proposal was approved by SGS Council on April 26, 2005 and the Faculty of Arts & Science Council and General Committee on March 7, 2005.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

No budgetary changes are being proposed for 2005-06. Changes for 2006-07 are currently under discussion and will be brought forward for approval at a later date.

RECOMMENDATION:

Be It Recommended to the Academic Board:

THAT the Institute for Environmental Studies (IES), Division of Environment (DoE) and Innis College's Environmental Studies Program combine resources to create a new graduate and undergraduate teaching and research entity, to be named The University of Toronto Centre for Environment effective July 1, 2005.