



TO: Planning and Budget Committee

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DATE: November 30, 2004 for December 7, 2004

AGENDA ITEM: 10

## ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

School of Graduate Studies: Proposal for an In-Program Master of Philosophy Degree (M.Phil.)

## 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.*

## OTHER ACTION:

May 12, 2004 – Proposal brought forth to the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs. Proposal referred back to administration with the advice that the proposal include the following:

- A clearly defined set of criteria to determine the completion an M.Phil.;
- A response to the concern that the proposal introduced an inequity in graduate programs;
- A more complete response to the concern that the degree a reward for non-completion of doctoral programs; and
- Additional supporting documentation from the School of Graduate Studies on the reasons for its support of the degree.

December 8, 2004 - Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

If approved by Governing Council, the proposal would be forwarded to the OCGS Appraisals Committee for consideration of the degree requirements. Subsequent to acceptance by OCGS of the guiding principals, each graduate unit would decide for itself whether the awarding of this degree to its students is consistent with its doctoral program and disciplinary culture. A proposal from a graduate unit to offer this degree will require the approval of the relevant divisional executive committee as well as the SGS Council.

## HIGHLIGHTS:

The proposed In-Program M.Phil. graduate degree ( see attached executive summary) would be instituted at the University of Toronto and awarded only to students enrolled in Ph.D. programs. Students would receive this degree en route to the Ph.D., when they have completed all requirements for the degree exclusive of the thesis.

The proposal is based on the premise that graduate students would benefit from the identification of scholarly milestones that can affirm their progress. The School believes that the presence of the M.Phil., in programs where this type of degree is consistent with scholarly traditions, will be a useful recruitment tool.

**FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:**

The M.Phil. will be awarded only in absentia; there will be a diploma and a notation on a student's transcript indicating they have been awarded an M.Phil. degree. A modest ROSI upgrade will be required to implement the new degree. There will be some modest ongoing costs associated with the awarding of the degree. These costs will be handled in the same manner as for other degree programs and will be absorbed by the units involved.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

For information only.