



University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

TO: Planning and Budget Committee

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DATE: May 1, 2006

AGENDA ITEM: 6

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Proposal to disestablish the Museum Studies Program within the School of Graduate Studies and to re-establish the program in the Faculty of Information Studies.

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 and proposals to establish, disestablish or significantly restructure academic programs. implications might include significant planning and budgetary changes within the significant effects on other divisions, the University as a whole and the public.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The move to FIS has been approved by the Faculty's Council on March 14, 2006 and by SGS Council on March 21, 2006.

HIGHLIGHTS

The Museum Studies Program currently exists within the School of Graduate Studies (SGS) with Centre/Institute-like status. It is proposed that the Program be disestablished within SGS and re-established as a degree program in the Faculty of Information Studies (FIS) .

The Master of Museum Studies Program has a high academic potential and is one of very few such programs in Canada. The program underwent an external review in August 2005. It was the opinion of the reviewers that a successful program requires the full participation of cognate units. The proposed move is consistent with the recommendations of the reviewers and with the academic plans of the Faculty of Information Studies.

This is a move of a mature program into a Faculty with which it is already associated. Student demand for the program is projected to be strong. The transfer will allow the Museum Studies Program to play a stronger role within FIS through greater interaction within the Faculty. The move is also consistent with the *Stepping UP* objective to strengthen the linkages between research and academic programs.

The Master's of Museum Studies is a two-year professional program. Half of the current students will graduate this spring; the other half will become FIS students. FIS is continuing the Master's of Museum Studies as a Division I degree within the Faculty. Thus, current first year students will receive a degree next year (assuming they complete the requirements) that is essentially no different from the one they would have received had MS stayed in SGS.

A committee has been struck within FIS to oversee the administrative aspects of the transfer, including items such as student services (registration, awarding of bursaries and prizes, summer internship program) and academic delivery of the program (curriculum and teaching staff). FIS has initiated a major curriculum review, to deal with the many changes to the Faculty that have come about as a result of their Academic Plan. This will include the beginning of an investigation of ways in which the core FIS curriculum could both benefit from, and contribute to, the Museum Studies degree program. FIS is moving forward to plan to move the Museum Studies Program into the Bissell Building this fall (2006), so as to provide students with much more involvement in the FIS community.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

The administration and operating budget of the Museum Studies Program will be transferred to the Faculty of Information Studies. There are no other implications to the University's budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

Be It Recommended to Academic Board:

THAT the Museum Studies Program be disestablished as an academic unit in the School of Graduate Studies and reestablished as a degree program within the Faculty of Information Studies, effective July 1, 2006.