



TO: Planning and Budget Committee

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DATE: November 6, 2008 for November 27, 2008

AGENDA ITEM: 4

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

School of Graduate Studies / Ontario Institute for Studies in Education: Closure of the Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) degree in the Developmental Psychology and Education program

**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. 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:**

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

Within the Department of Human Development and Applied Psychology, there have been numerous discussions about the feasibility of maintaining a distinct Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) given the small number of applications to the program. There is an increasing demand for other degree programs, such as the rapidly-growing M.Ed. program and the flexible-time PhD. The recently introduced flexible time Ph.D. option provides an effective and desirable path for both future researchers and professional practitioners. Currently, most students aiming to pursue doctoral study concurrent with their professional careers enroll in the flexible time Ph.D. program.

The Department therefore proposes to stop admitting students to the Ed.D. in Developmental Psychology and Education program and to discontinue the program when there are no more students registered in it. Currently there are two students in the program. The proposed closure of the Ed.D. program has been approved by the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education on April 16, 2008. The School of Graduate Studies Graduate Education Council approved the program closure on May 20, 2008.

This proposal will be brought forward to the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs on November 25, 2008.

**FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS: N/A**

**RECOMMENDATION: RECOMMENDATION:**

Be it Resolved that the Planning and Budget Committee concurs with the recommendation of the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

THAT the proposal from the School of Graduate Studies and the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education to cease admission to the Developmental Psychology and Education Ed.D. program be approved effective immediately and,

THAT the closure of the Developmental Psychology and Education Ed.D. program be approved, effective when no students are registered in it and THAT the entry for the program be removed from the School of Graduate Studies calendar on a permanent basis, beginning with the calendar for 2009-10.