



TO: Planning and Budget Committee

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DATE: April 5 for April 12, 2010

AGENDA ITEM: 4

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

University of Toronto Scarborough: Proposal to establish a Department of English and a Department of Philosophy.

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee recommends to the Academic Board on plans and proposals to establish, disestablish, or significantly restructure academic units and resulting planning and resource implications.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The current University of Toronto Scarborough departmental structure was established in 1964. Executive Committee of Governing Council approved the change of name of the UTSC Division of Humanities to the Department of Humanities on February 3, 2003.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The Department of Humanities is the largest, most complex department at University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC). It houses disciplines in the humanities, including English, French, History, Linguistics, and Philosophy. It offers a broad array of programs, including African Studies, Classical Studies, English, French, Global Asia Studies, History, Intersections, Exchanges and Encounters in the Humanities, Journalism, Languages, Linguistics and Psycholinguistics, Media Studies, New Media Studies, Philosophy, Religion, Women's and Gender Studies, and Visual and Performing Arts.

The increase in the breadth disciplines, teaching and research activity in the Department of Humanities has posed a serious challenge to the leadership, direction and effective management and promotion of the Department. It has become clear in recent external reviews of the Department that its structure is no longer optimal and that the needs of the teaching staff and students would be better supported through three separate academic units. Based on external reviews of the Department and extensive consultation within the unit, across the three campuses, UTSC proposes the establishment of a new Department of English and a new Department of Philosophy. The attached proposal sets out the academic rationale for the establishment of the departments in order to strengthen these disciplines, allow for thriving interdisciplinary activity, and create a size and coherence that represents a critical mass of programs and faculty, brought about by expansion at UTSC.

The proposed structure will provide an environment that allows for the improvement of the teaching and research missions of the three departments. The changed structure will not affect the curriculum or the delivery of academic programs, although it will result in the relocation of the English and Philosophy programs to the new departments. The Department of Humanities will continue to offer programs in African Studies, Classical Studies, French, Global Asia Studies, History, Intersections, Exchanges and Encounters in the Humanities, Languages, Journalism, Linguistics and Psycholinguistics, Media Studies, New Media Studies, Religion, Women's and Gender Studies, and Visual and Performing Arts . The graduate departments currently assigned to faculty in English and Philosophy will remain unchanged. The tri-campus graduate Department of English will remain the graduate home of the English faculty and the tri-campus graduate Department of Philosophy will remain the home of the Philosophy faculty.

There has been extensive consultation regarding the proposal within UTSC. The proposal was considered by the UTSC Planning and Budget Committee on March 16, 2010 and approved by the UTSC Council on March 30, 2010.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

The increases in funding to support the two new departments are described in the proposal and will be allocated from existing operating resources within UTSC. There are no resource implications for the University's operating budget resulting from this proposal. The financial plan has been reviewed and approved by UTSC and by the Vice-Provost Academic Operations Office.

Complement planning, implementation strategies, and communication to students are delineated with the proposal. Faculty members and academic programs related to the proposed departments are currently housed in the Department of Humanities, and comprise approximately one third of the faculty complement and one third of the program and course enrollments.

Delivery of the existing undergraduate programs will be unaffected although programs will be housed in the new departments as described. As the programs were not thoroughly reviewed in 2009, they will be scheduled for external review within the next two years. The proposed restructuring will not affect the current tri-campus graduate structure; new academic units will align with the existing graduate departments. The Chairs of these departments as well as the Deans of Arts and Science, UTSC and the School of Graduate Studies have been consulted and view this change as a positive step forward for UTSC.

The reorganization will have no immediate implications for space allocation. Space is currently available to accommodate the three proposed new administrative staff. However, the need for contiguous space for these departments, as well as for the Department of Humanities, will be an important priority in the planning for secondary space needs arising from the construction of the new Instructional Centre, which is slated for completion in mid-2011. There are needs for additional academic and administrative staff, and the Dean of UTSC has outlined a plan to provide funding for these positions, an academic administrative stipend for each academic unit and the costs for additional administrative offices.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Planning and Budget Committee recommends for approval that:

1. The University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC) Department of English be established, effective July 1, 2010; and
2. The UTSC Department of Philosophy be established, effective July 1, 2010.