



TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

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DATE: April 24, 2008

AGENDA ITEM: **4**

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION: Toronto School of Theology: Master of Sacred Music (M.S.M.) Conjoint Degree**

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Committee has authority to recommend to Academic Board for approval changes which establish a new degree program.

**PREVIOUS ACTION:**

Governing Council approved the Toronto School of Theology Memorandum of Agreement on June 23, 2004<sup>1</sup>. The current list of nine approved conjoint degrees is included in Schedule B of the Agreement. The Memorandum stipulates that any proposed new conjoint degrees must be approved by the Academic Board of U of T Governing Council and by the appropriate TST Degree Council.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

The proposed Master of Sacred Music (M.S.M.) degree would be offered jointly by Victoria University<sup>2</sup> with the University of Toronto under the terms of the 2004 Memorandum of Agreement between the Toronto School of Theology (TST), its member institutions, and U of T.

This is a second-entry undergraduate program and the admission requirements are a bachelor's degree and music experience. The rationale, description of the program, learning objectives and program details are outlined in the attached proposal. The name of the degree, Master of Sacred Music, is the standard nomenclature for a professional degree of this nature.

The proposed program will provide post-baccalaureate level training in the art of leading sacred music with musical and theological depth that will further students' professional practice of sacred music. The program comprises twenty half-credit courses (ten FCE's).

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/memagree2.htm>

In article. 6.(i) and (iii), all conjoint degree programs must meet the standards of the University of Toronto and be approved by TST, the member institution, and U of T.

<sup>2</sup> Victoria University, has the authority, by its Act and by its Agreement with U of T, to offer conjoint degrees with the University.

Of the twenty, fifteen are required, including a practicum; 1.5 FCE Music electives and two .5 FCE theology electives. The program may be taken full-time over two years, or part-time within a five year limit. All courses required or elective in the program are already approved and offered by regular faculty members in Emmanuel College, the Toronto School of Theology, and the performance and music education divisions of the Faculty of Music.

In keeping with the principles of academic freedom and with conditions for public funding, the MSM will be open to any qualified student regardless of religious or denominational affiliation. The liturgical and theological traditions studied are mainly western Christian, and include the history of Jewish liturgy. Religious commitment is not a condition of admission; and members of other (or no) religious traditions are welcome to apply. Where appropriate courses in other liturgies are available, arrangements can be made to include them as part of the degree requirements.

The program has been extensively discussed with the members of the Faculty of Music who wish to participate, the former Dean of the Faculty Music, and the interim Dean who has agreed to the participation of Music colleagues as detailed in this proposal. M.S.M. students who have the requisite qualifications will be admitted to the undergraduate music courses that form part of this program with the permission of the instructor.

As per the requirements of the Memorandum, the M.S.M. proposal has been approved by the University of Toronto - Toronto School of Theology Joint Committee, the Council of Emmanuel College, the Basic Degree Council of TST and the Senate of Victoria University (February 2008).

**FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:**

Resource requirements are minimal as the program is staffed by existing faculty members, using existing courses. Resources are solely the responsibility of Victoria University and it has committed to provide these as required. This proposal will be presented to the Planning and Budget Committee on May 14, 2008.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs recommends to the Academic Board:

THAT the Master of Sacred Music (M.S.M.) degree offered by Victoria University have conjoint status with the University of Toronto as of September 1, 2008.