



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT & PROVOST

TO: Academic Board

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DATE: May 20, 2008 for June 3, 2008

AGENDA ITEM: 9.

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Faculty of Information Studies: Name change to *Faculty of Information*

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Board has authority to approve name changes of academic units.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

Founded in 1928 as the *Library School*, the Faculty's name has changed several times—in 1972, to the *Faculty of Library Science*; in 1982, to the *Faculty of Library and Information Science*. Governing Council approved the name *Faculty of Information Studies* in 1994.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Each of the name changes that the Faculty has undergone in the last 80 years have reflected—and responded to—changes in the profession within which the Faculty operates, and, more importantly, the ongoing expansion of topics covered by the Information field. While the Faculty maintains its reputation as a professional school of choice for Librarians and Archivists, it has developed as the only Canadian member of the Information Schools (“i-schools”) movement. In so doing, the Faculty has expanded its academic offerings to include new fields of study such as Museum Studies, information policy, and inclusive design. Information itself, *qua* phenomenon, is an increasingly valid subject of academic study.

As outlined in the attached Memo, the new name will signify the Faculty's membership in the emerging community of Information Schools (“i-schools”). There is a movement within this group to adopt such simple names as *Information School*, *School of Information*, etc., in order to establish Information Schools as a *type*, i.e., a cohesive and recognizable unit for granting agencies, patterns of allegiance, rating systems, public discussions, etc. The University of Michigan calls their i-school *The School of Information*, as does the University of Texas. The University of Washington has *The Information School*. In 2006 University of California Berkeley changed its name from the “School of Information Management and Systems” to the *School of Information*. Of the 19 Universities forming the Information School Caucus, just 4 others continue to have ‘studies’ in their names and several of these are contemplating name changes to the “Information School” or “School of Information.”

At this time, the proposed name change will have no direct impact on the names of Faculty's programs or degrees. In the future—perhaps in conjunction with the on-going curriculum review—the Faculty may consider proposing changing the name of the Master of Information Studies (MIS) degree to *Master of Information*.

The proposal to change to the *Faculty of Information* has been considered carefully, having first been discussed in the Faculty's 2004–10 Academic Plan. As the proposed change is important to the Faculty's internal self-conception and to external image and reputation, the Faculty engaged in a broad consultation process with stakeholders. Meetings were held with the Presidents of each of the three student societies and with the Faculty's Alumni Council. A 'Town Hall' meeting was held on March 18, 2008 to further discuss the proposal. The proposal has received broad support at all of the meetings and consultations.

The proposed name was approved at the Faculty of Information Studies Council on March 25, 2008.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

There are no new/additional financial resources required to implement the name change.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Academic Board approve:

THAT the name of the Faculty of Information Studies be changed to the *Faculty of Information*, effective June 30, 2008.