



TO: Planning and Budget Committee

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AGENDA ITEM: 4

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

Proposal to disestablish the Graduate Centre for Study of Drama within the School of Graduate Studies and to re-establish the Centre in the Faculty of Arts and Science as an EDU:A.

**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. Those implications might include significant planning and budgetary changes within the division or significant effects on other divisions, the University as a whole and the public.*

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

The Graduate Centre for Study of Drama has a strong reputation for its MA and PhD programs. Founded in 1966, it has gained international recognition for its inclusion of a practical theatre component in the curriculum of its research-based graduate programs. It is a research and teaching unit that currently exists as an extra-departmental unit A (EDU:A)<sup>1</sup> within the School of Graduate Studies (SGS). It is proposed that the Centre be disestablished within SGS and re-established as an EDU:A in the Faculty of Arts and Science.

In the fall of 2007, following on reviews of the Graduate Centre for Study of Drama and the University College Drama Program, the School of Graduate Studies coordinated a Task Force, struck by the Dean of Graduate Studies and the Deans of the three Arts and Science Faculties, on academic programs in Drama, Theatre and Performance across the three campuses. The Task Force was asked to examine the four existing academic programs (University of Toronto Mississauga, University of Toronto Scarborough, University College Faculty of Arts and Science, and the School of Graduate Studies) with a view to optimizing the organizational relations among them to the mutual benefit to the programs.

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<sup>1</sup> As per the *Guidelines for Administrative Functions and Protocols of Extra-Departmental Units* an EDU:A has a well-established and defined area of scholarship as a focus. The unit has attained a critical mass of interdisciplinary scholarship at the University that allows for the unit to engage in the appointment of teaching staff, admission of students to a program of graduate or undergraduate study, and engage in interdisciplinary research. <http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/Assets/guide100.pdf>

The Tri-Campus Task Force on Academic Programs in Drama, Theatre and Performance recommended in its report (April 14, 2008) that the Centre be re-established in the Faculty of Arts and Science, in large part as a recognition that the majority of the Centre's closest cognate departments and programs are in the Faculty of Arts and Science. These include the major language departments, Classics, English, French, German, Italian Studies, Spanish and Portuguese, and Slavic, as well as related units such as the Cinema Studies Institute, the Centre for Comparative Literature, the Centre for Medieval Studies, and the undergraduate program in Drama at University College.

The Centre has had a long and fruitful collaboration with each of these units, and hence, its connections with the Faculty of Arts and Science are already strong. The Centre's MA and PhD programs both include a performance component, organized principally through the production facilities of the Robert Gill Theatre and the Glen Morris Studio Theatre. These program requirements effectively tie the Centre to the St. George campus, and further support the designation of the Faculty of Arts and Science as its most appropriate home.

The faculty, staff and students of the Centre support the proposal to transfer the Centre to the Faculty of Arts and Science. Cross-appointed faculty members from the University of Toronto Mississauga and the University of Toronto Scarborough were consulted through their representation on the Task Force, and support this proposal. As per the recommendations of the Tri-Campus Task Force on Academic Programs in Drama, Theatre and Performance, a Tri-Campus Drama Council has been established, with representation from all four programs and the units that house them.

The proposal has been approved by the SGS Graduate Education Council on January 2009 and by the Faculty of Arts and Science Council on February 2, 2009.

#### **FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:**

The administration and operating budget of the Graduate Centre for Study of Drama will be transferred to the Faculty of Arts and Science. There are no other implications for the University's budget. All relevant matters concerning faculty and staff have been taken into consideration in the timing of the transfer. The Graduate Centre for Study of Drama will oversee administrative aspects of the transfer, such as student services and academic delivery of the program.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Be It Recommended to Academic Board:

THAT the Graduate Centre for Study of Drama be disestablished as an academic unit in the School of Graduate Studies and reestablished as an extra-departmental unit A (EDU:A) within the Faculty of Arts and Science, effective May 1, 2009.