



TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

SPONSOR: Cheryl Regehr, Vice-Provost, Academic Programs

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DATE: February 9, 2010 for March 2, 2010

AGENDA ITEM: 3

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION: University of Toronto Scarborough and School of Graduate Studies: Proposal for a Ph.D. in Environmental Science**

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

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

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

The proposed Ph.D. in Environmental Science is a tri-campus graduate program to be housed at the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences at the University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC). The program will build directly on the Department's undergraduate program in Environmental Science and Master of Environmental Science Program (M.Env.Sc.). The program is one of the key initiatives put forth by the Department in its academic plan. The program, academic rationale and requirements are outlined in the attached executive summary.

This will be the first tri-campus doctoral program to be housed at UTSC and the Department will assume the associated graduate responsibilities. The Environmental Science program was envisioned in the Department's academic plan and aligns with its current undergraduate and professional programs. The proposal reflects the UTSC and the University of Toronto long term aspirations as presented in *Towards 2030*. The stated broad strategic directions affirm the importance of tri-campus graduate collaboration and university-wide oversight of any campus-specific graduate offerings at the same time acknowledging the aspirations for increased professional master's and doctoral-level enrolments at the east and west campuses.

There are several U of T academic divisions that offer courses and programs in areas related to the environment. The proposed program will appeal to those students wishing to carry out research into environmental issues that involve an interdisciplinary approach, yet at a fundamental scientific level. Such students may have done an undergraduate degree in a subject area (e.g. Environmental Science) that may be deemed to have insufficient chemistry, engineering, geology or forestry content to be considered for admission to these other disciplines. The Ph.D. program is designed to provide both a broad knowledge of current

environmental research issues, especially those that exist at the interface between traditional disciplines, and specific training in the most appropriate research methodologies to tackle these scientific problems in the environment. The addition of core faculty from other departments at UTSC, from departments within the tri-campus system, as well as from the ranks of government scientists, will provide a program that will be unique. Ph.D. course work and research training may be carried out anywhere within the tri-campus system, although the core seminar course,

ENV2200H, and the bulk of the other course offerings will be held at UTSC, and all students will have access to office space at UTSC.

As is described in the proposal, extensive consultations regarding the Ph.D. program have taken place over the past two years, including discussions with the deans of the Faculty of Arts and Science and University of Toronto Mississauga and chairs of relevant departments and centres both in Arts and Science, UTM and the Faculty of Forestry and the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering. A significant number of current students in the Department's extremely successful Master of Environmental Science Program wish to pursue doctoral research in an interdisciplinary mode.

The proposal was approved by the UTSC Academic Committee on November 17, 2009, by the UTSC Executive Committee on December 8, 2009, and by the Arts and Science Three Campus Graduate Curriculum Committee approved the proposal on December 15, 2009. The School of Graduate Studies Graduate Education Council on January 19, 2010.

**FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:**

The University of Toronto Scarborough has committed to provide all the resources needed for this program. The financial plan has been reviewed by the University of Toronto Scarborough and by the Planning and Budget Office. This proposal will be presented for concurrence to the Planning and Budget Committee on March 3, 2010.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

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

THAT the proposed Ph.D. in Environmental Science, as described in the attached proposal, be approved with enrolment commencing September, 2010.