

THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

Excerpt from Draft REPORT NUMBER 181 OF THE ACADEMIC BOARD

October 11, 2012

5. Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering: Master of Engineering in Cities Engineering and Management

The Chair outlined the governance approval path for the proposed Master of Engineering in Cities Engineering and Management (M.Eng.C.E.M.) graduate degree program. The proposal had been considered by the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) at its meeting of September 19, 2012. If approved by the Academic Board, it would then be considered for confirmation by the Executive Committee at its meeting on October 19, 2012. It was a requirement of the *University of Toronto Act, 1971* that certain decisions made by the Board be confirmed by the Executive Committee because the Board was not composed of a majority of members of the Governing Council. Once University governance approvals were obtained, the proposal would be reviewed by the Higher Education Quality Council of Ontario and then by the MTCU. A number of stages would need to be passed before the first cohort of students could be accepted into the program.

Professor Doug McDougall, Chair of AP&P, introduced the proposal and highlighted the Committee's discussion, a summary of which is contained in the Report of the AP&P meeting.¹

Among the matters that arose during the Board's discussion were the following.

a) Consultation and Collaboration within the University

Some questions about existing related programs and consultation that had occurred during the development of the proposal were raised by a member. Professor Meric Gertler, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science, replied that, while undergraduate and graduate programs with a focus on urban studies were currently offered at the University, the proposed program would fill a distinctive and un-served niche. Professor Brenda McCabe, Chair of the Department of Civil Engineering, confirmed that consultation had taken place with the University's Cities Centre², and she reported that its Director was very supportive of the initiative. Professor Misak noted that collaborative discussions about the development of the Center for Urban Science and Progress and the proposed M.Eng.C.E.M. program had been held with Deans and faculty members from a number of divisions within the University.

¹<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Governing+Council+Digital+Assets/Boards+and+Committees/Committee+on+Academic+Policy+and+Programs/2012-2013+Academic+Year/r0919.pdf>

²The Cities Centre evolved from the Centre for Urban and Community Studies.

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b) Resource Implications of the Proposal

In response to a question regarding necessary resources for the proposed program, Professor McCabe explained that the Theme A infrastructure-related engineering courses would not require additional resources as they would be drawn from existing Master of Engineering courses. Theme B courses related to complex systems in cities would be supported by a team of professors and industry experts who had agreed to participate in the program. Details regarding delivery of those courses had not yet been developed. Support for the third component of the program, a graduate-level practicum, would be provided by the University's existing Practical Experience Year Office and by a half-time program administrator. Professor Cheryl Regehr, Vice-Provost, Academic Programs, informed the Board that a multi-disciplinary team of senior University administrators considered every program proposal in its initial stages of development. During those discussions, factors such as available resources, potential program costs and prospective revenue were examined to ensure that the sponsoring Faculty would have sufficient resources for the program.

On motion duly moved, seconded, and carried

YOUR BOARD RECOMMENDS

THAT the proposed Master of Engineering in Cities Engineering and Management (M.Eng.C.E.M.), as described in the proposal from the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering dated August 2, 2012, a copy of which is attached hereto as Appendix "A", be approved effective for the academic year 2013-2014.