FOR APPROVAL   **PUBLIC**   **OPEN SESSION**

TO: Academic Affairs Committee

SPONSOR: Amy Mullin, Vice-Principal Academic and Dean
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PRESENTER: Professor Emmanuel Nikiema, Language Studies
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DATE: November 11, 2015 for November 18, 2015

AGENDA ITEM: 5

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Proposal for Change in Calendar Description of UTM Language Citation Program

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Under section 5.6 of its terms of reference, the Academic Affairs Committee is responsible for major and minor modifications to existing programs.

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. **Academic Affairs Committee [For Approval] (November 18, 2015)**

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

No previous action in governance has been taken on this proposal.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM), through the Department of Language Studies, currently offers a Language Citation Program which allows students who complete the stated language course requirements and perform well in their courses the opportunity to have this accomplishment recognized on their official academic transcript. The current Language Citation Program description in the UTM Academic Calendar implies that eligibility for this transcript notation is only available to degree students and non-degree students that have had previous language background or training. In addition, traditionally students have not been assessed by the Department of Language Studies for completion of the Language Citation Program requirements until the time of graduation, implying exclusivity to degree students only. The Department of Language Studies would like to clarify eligibility and timing for this transcript notation by updating the Language Citation Program description in the Academic Calendar.

The proposed description changes to the calendar entry for the Language Citation Program will make clear that all students (degree and non-degree, including those with no previous language background or training) are eligible to earn this transcript notation. This will provide non-degree students with benefits similar to our undergraduate degree students as many are taking language studies courses in preparation for application to graduate and professional programs. There is no anticipated negative impact to degree students as they will remain eligible for the citation under the same requirements. In addition, this change will continue to support the objective of offering students opportunities for expanded professional skill development, better preparation for graduate/ professional study, and an increased connection and awareness of the local community and beyond.

Faculty and staff in the Language Studies Department, cognate departments at the St. George and Scarborough campuses, as well as representatives from the UTM Office of the Registrar were consulted during the development of this proposal.

There are no resource implications for this change.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no net implications for the campus' operating budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

Be it Resolved,

THAT the proposed changes in the calendar description of UTM Language Citation Program, recommended by the Vice-Principal Academic & Dean, Professor Amy Mullin, and described in the proposal dated August 21, 2015, be approved, effective on May 1, 2016.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

AAC 2015 11 18 Item Language Citation Program Change Proposal

Proposal for Change in Calendar Description of UTM Language Citation Program
Department of Language Studies

Date: August 21, 2015
Effective Date: May 1, 2016

1 Statement of Change

This is a proposal to change the current description of the Language Citation Program in the UTM Academic Calendar (see proposed changes in Section 5 below). The Department of Language Studies' Language Citation Program allows students completing language courses here at UTM the opportunity to have this accomplishment recognized on their transcript.

The purpose of the proposed change is twofold – first, to ensure non-degree students at UTM are able to receive this transcript notation as well; and second, to change the timing of when this transcript notation is added to a student's record.

2 Background

The initial proposal for the Language Citation Program was approved by the Council of the Faculty of Arts & Science (St. George campus) on October 3, 2006 and passed on October 25, 2006 by the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs. UTM implemented the citation in 2009 and subsequently included a description of the program and its requirements in the UTM Academic Calendar for 2010-11.

Since 2010, the program has been very successful and to date the Department of Language Studies receives numerous requests from students every year who have completed the requirements for the citation. The citation, though not a major or minor program, offers students the opportunity to continue their study of a language to an advanced level and be awarded evidence of their mastery of that language.

Currently, the Language Citation Program requires students to complete 2.0 FCE at the 200-level or above with a min. final standing of B- in each course. Though the Program does allow for non-degree students to return and earn the transcript notation, the implication is that this is applicable only to students with some previous language background or training. In addition, students are usually not assessed by the Department of Language Studies for this notation until the time of graduation, implying exclusivity to degree students only.

3 Rationale for Change

As mentioned above, current documentation regarding the language citation does not clearly define a student's status (degree or non-degree). At UTM, the assessment of the citation is normally done at graduation; suggesting that only degree students (who "graduate") are eligible to be receive this transcript notation. However, the intention of this process was not to exclude non-degree students but was motivated by the convenience of administrative procedures at the time. Since its introduction at UTM, the department has taken steps to streamline the assessment process with an online request form. This will allow students to apply for the transcript notation as soon as the requirements are completed (instead of at graduation). The online assessment and proposed calendar changes will ensure that all students (degree and non-degree) completing the min. requirements are able to be awarded the appropriate transcript notation for their academic achievement.

The language citation will offer non-degree students benefits similar to our undergraduate degree students as many are taking our language studies courses in preparation for application to graduate and professional programs. The inclusion of non-degree students would not in any way interfere with the intended benefit of the citation and would continue to support its objective, which is to offer opportunities to expand students' professional skills, better prepare them for graduate/professional study, as well as connect with others in the local community and a competitive global market. Presently, only UTM has received requests from non-degree students to be assessed for the language citation. As the assessment is completed at UTM, it should not affect other campuses or have an impact on other faculties or departments.

4 Resource Implications

There are no resources implications as language courses are offered at UTM and across all campuses. The proposed changes to the program description are not expected to increase the enrolment numbers in the existing courses.

5 Calendar

<u>5.1 Current Entry</u>

Language Citation Program

The University of Toronto Mississauga is an ideal place for students to pursue the study of languages. Our students live in a country that promotes multiculturalism, and our university is located in one of the world's most diverse metropolitan areas. We offer significant language opportunities in both ancient and modern languages. We also offer a variety of international academic programs and the number of such programs will expand. As our students seek further international study, work opportunities, and post-graduate study, they may be assisted by a notation on their academic record of language proficiency.

The Language Citation at the University of Toronto Mississauga is official recognition on a student's transcript that the student has progressed to an advanced level in the study of a language, and has been assessed as achieving "good" results in that study. In particular, to achieve the Language Citation, a student must complete two full courses or their equivalent beyond the first-year level of language instruction, and must achieve at least a B- in each of the courses beyond the introductory level. The two full-course equivalents may be language instruction or may be those taught in the language to be assessed.

The Language Citation will consist of a notation on the transcript that reads: "Completed Requirements of Language Citation in [name of language]." This will appear in the U of T Mississauga sessional segment of the student's academic record on the transcript describing the courses and marks for the session in which the Citation is assessed as complete.

Note that Language Citation is not a "program of study" or Subject Post, and will not satisfy the degree requirement that specifies the minimum programs of study to qualify for the degree. The citation may be of interest to those who are completing programs involving language study, but it may also be of interest to those whose program interests lie elsewhere, but wish to have achievement in a language noted on their academic record.

The Language Citation was first offered to the graduating class of 2007. Students who have already graduated may be eligible if they return for further language study that contributes to the assessment of the citation. The citation will not be assessed for students who have completed their studies and have not re-enrolled.

To be assessed for the Language Citation, students should contact the department or program that will be assessing the language for the citation. They should present a copy of their academic record, and indicate which courses they would like considered for the assessment. If students already have proficiency in a language and wish to move directly to courses beyond the introductory level, they should consult the relevant department about appropriate placement. Also, students wishing to include courses taken in the country where the language is spoken should consult the relevant department about appropriate study abroad options.

The citation can be earned in any language, modern or ancient, which provides sufficient advanced training at the University of Toronto Mississauga, provided the unit offering the instruction participates in the citation. Courses taken at the University of Toronto (St. George campus) or University of Toronto Scarborough may also be eligible for assessment.

Languages offered at the University of Toronto Mississauga for which a citation may be granted (subject to change) include:

- Arabic
- Chinese
- French
- German
- Hindi
- Italian
- Latin

- Persian
- Sanskrit
- Spanish

Contact the Department of Language Studies to determine how you can earn a Language Citation <mark>on your U of T degree</mark>.

5.2 Proposed Entry

Language Citation Program

The University of Toronto Mississauga is an ideal place for students to pursue the study of languages. Our students live in a country that promotes multiculturalism, and our university is located in one of the world's most diverse metropolitan areas. We offer significant language opportunities in both ancient and modern languages. We also offer a variety of international academic programs and the number of such programs will expand. As our students seek further international study, work opportunities, and post-graduate study, they may be assisted by a notation on their academic record of language proficiency.

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<mark>Non-degree students completing language study courses will be eligible for the citation.</mark> The citation will not be assessed for students who have completed their studies and have not re-enrolled.

<mark>To be assessed for the Language Citation, students should contact the Department of Language Studies directly with</mark> a copy of their academic record, and indicate which courses they would like considered for the assessment. If students already have proficiency in a language and wish to move directly to courses beyond the introductory level, they should consult the relevant department about appropriate

placement. Also, students wishing to include courses taken in the country where the language is spoken should consult the relevant department about appropriate study abroad options.

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