



TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

SPONSOR: Edith Hillan
CONTACT INFO: edith.hillan@utoronto.ca

DATE: December 19, 2008

AGENDA ITEM: 6

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

University of Toronto at Mississauga: Major Calendar Changes 2009-2010

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee has authority for approval of changes to curriculum within established degree programs that can be accomplished with existing resources and are not major, as in specialist, major and minor programs.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

HIGHLIGHTS:

The University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) is proposing new undergraduate programs and program deletions for the calendar year 2009-10. The proposed changes are presented in the attached summary, along with the associated academic rationale, program descriptions and requirements, and learning outcomes. The proposals are aligned with UTM's degree learning expectations.¹

New programs of study:

Biology for Health Sciences, BSc: Major

The program was developed to fill a niche for students in UTM Biology that have an interest in human or health-related studies and to allow them to receive the biological grounding needed to understand health issues. The program is distinct in its admission requirements, curriculum and learning outcomes from the UTM Biology program. Students are able to focus on one of three areas: 1) Cell, Molecular and Biotechnology, 2) Neuroscience, or 3) Genes and Behaviour.

Over the last few years UTM has developed new courses that deal with areas related to the biological foundation of health in humans. The timing for offering this program is appropriate given the partnership with the Faculty of Medicine with the Academy of Medicine and the building of a Health Sciences Complex. The Department of Biology is a large group at UTM and program courses are already being taught by faculty. (The Department currently offers the following BSc Programs: Bioinformatics, Biology, Biotechnology, Comparative Physiology, Ecology, Ecology and Evolution, Molecular Biology, Paleontology.)

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¹ <http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/policy/academic/DLE.htm>

The Department has consulted with the Chairs of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Cell and Systems Biology, Anthropology, UTM Director of Forensics and the Director of the Human Biology Program, St. George.

Environmental Management, BA: Minor

Environmental Science, BSc: Minor

The proposed minor programs complement existing major and specialist programs in these areas. The Department of Geography has recently conducted a self study and has evaluated its programs related to the environment. The Department has selected a core group of courses that reflect their interdisciplinary nature: at least four different disciplines are represented among the program-related course selections.

In addition to the above noted programs, the Department offers the following: Geography BA/BSc, Geographical Information Systems BSc, and Environment and Human Society BA. Two programs are proposed to be deleted – see below.

Deleted Programs

Environmental Analysis and Monitoring, BSc: Specialist and Major

Environment and Human Society, BA: Major

Relevant courses will be integrated with the existing Environmental Science Specialist program so that students may follow a path that emphasizes the areas covered by the deleted programs within the specialist program.

Health Sciences Communication, BSc: Spec

In 2007, the Health Science Communication Major program was designed with fewer science course requirements, and this has proved to be more successful. The Institute will continue to offer the major program.

The new programs have been developed in consultation with appropriate partners and have been reviewed by the tri-campus decanal committee. The proposals have been approved by UTM's Academic Affairs Committee on November 25, 2008 and approved by Erindale College Council on December 11, 2008.

(Course descriptions for existing courses that are part of the above programs can be found online at <http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/regcal/>)

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

There are no new/additional financial resources required to implement the program additions and changes. There are no students currently registered in the Health Sciences Communication program. Students currently enrolled in the Environmental Analysis and Monitoring and Environment and Human Society will be allowed to complete their existing programs.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs approve:

The proposed major calendar changes, as described in the submission from the University of Toronto at Mississauga for 2009-10, effective for the academic year 2009-10.