



School of Graduate Studies

University of Toronto

May 29, 2002

Professor Carolyn Tuohy
Vice-President, Policy Development
and Associate Provost
Room 206, Simcoe Hall
27 King's College Circle
University of Toronto

Dear Professor Tuohy,

At its meeting of May 21, 2002, the Council of the School of Graduate Studies approved the following motion for a new Combined Master's program in Physical Therapy and Rehabilitation Science:

THAT SGS Council approve the proposal for a Combined Master of Science in Physical Therapy (M.Sc.P.T.) / Master of Science in Rehabilitation Science (M.Sc.) Program, effective September 2002, pending final approval.

The Motion, Executive Summary, Proposal and Memorandum of Agreement are attached.

On behalf of the Council of the School of Graduate Studies, I am presenting this item to you for approval by Governing Council committees as appropriate. Given the September 2002 proposed effective date, would it be possible for you to approve this request under Summer Executive Authority?

Yours sincerely,

Jane Alderdice
Secretary to SGS Council, and
Coordinator of Policy, Program and Liaison
School of Graduate Studies

c.c. U. de Boni R. Branch T. Chan D. Cormack
C. Johnston M. Verrier L. Yee

Enc.

Executive Summary

Overview

The proposed Combined MScPT/MSc Program at the University of Toronto is designed to provide high-performing Physical Therapy students with a strong interest in a research career that will advance the science of Physical Therapy, with a head start on their journey to PhD studies. The Combined Program will allow students to participate in an integrated and coherent program of study leading to the concurrent receipt of the MScPT (entry-level professional practice in Physical Therapy) and the MSc in Rehabilitation Science degrees (doctoral stream research training). This will be accomplished in three consecutive years of full-time study, reducing the overall time to graduation by one year. Instead of completing a "research project" and "major paper" in Year II (requirement of the MScPT Program), Combined Program students will engage in a research program with School of Graduate Studies supervision, in order to complete the full "thesis" requirement of the MSc Program, in Year III. In addition, the course options for Combined Program students will be identical to those in the MSc Program, i.e. research oriented. Due to limited flexibility in the MScPT multi-site course schedule, a part-time studies option will not be offered. It is anticipated that up to 10% of the MScPT students will be eligible for enrolment in the Combined Program in any given year, so that the number of Combined Program students will gradually increase as enrolment expands.

Issues and Rationale

There are a number of time-sensitive issues underlying the rationale for this proposal:

- the need to reduce the time and expense of acquiring a doctoral degree within the profession of Physical Therapy;
- the need to, more quickly, build a critical mass of academic/research practitioners;
- the opportunity to build on University of Toronto's legacy of "firsts" in graduate studies, by instituting the first Combined Program of its kind in Physical Therapy in North America; and
- the opportunity to attract, and keep, the "best students" and investigative minds in Physical Therapy: those who may otherwise be lost to the profession

Admission Criteria

Admission to the Combined Program will be conditional upon successful completion of Year I of the MScPT program with a cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of A- and compliance with the admission criteria of the MSc in Rehabilitation Science. The application procedure will ensure that candidates have both the academic and individual capacity to successfully complete the requirements of the Combined Program, and will include an interview with the MSc Program Admissions Committee.

Fee Structure

It is proposed that students who enrol in the Combined Program will pay the usual MScPT fees in Year I and II, plus the SGS FT fall/winter program fee for the minimum residency period of the MSc, in Year III. It is expected that most students will complete their studies in this timeframe, avoiding additional session or program fees in a 4th year.

Impact on Nature and Quality of the MScPT and MSc Programs

The Combined Program is designed to maintain the integrity and purpose of both the MScPT and MSc programs. Students will complete all of the core components of each program in three years instead of four, essentially, by merging the research curriculum of the professional MScPT program with the thesis requirement of the MSc in Rehabilitation Science program.

Consultation with Stakeholders

The Combined Program was developed through a collaborative effort between the Graduate Department of Rehabilitation Science and the Department of Physical Therapy. The Department of Physical Therapy faculty reviewed, modified and approved this proposal through discussion at the November and December (2001) Faculty Committee meetings. In addition, direction was taken from our consultation with Professor Umberto De Boni and Ms. Jane Alderdice at the beginning of this process.

Resource Implications

The Combined Program will provide no drain on the current resources of either of the participating Departments, since the overall number of students in each of the MScPT and MSc programs will not change. The Department of Physical Therapy will take responsibility for the coordination and daily operations of the Combined Program.