



University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

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

DATE: January 5, 2005 for January 12, 2005

AGENDA ITEM: 10 (g)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

School of Graduate Studies: Proposal of the Department of Adult Education and Counseling Psychology for a Coursework-Only Option for the M.Ed. in the Adult Education and Community Development Program, for inclusion in the School of Graduate Studies calendar on a permanent basis, effective September 2005.

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee receives for information minor changes within degree programs.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

HIGHLIGHTS:

The M.Ed. degree is one of four degrees (also M.A., Ed.D. and Ph.D. degrees) offered within the Adult Education and Community Development (AECD) graduate program in the Department of Adult Education and Counseling Psychology. At present, the M.Ed. program of study consists of ten half-courses, half of which are normally undertaken in the Program, plus a Comprehensive paper, and may be taken on a full- or part-time basis. The M.Ed. degree would be offered through a “coursework-only” option (Option IV), with a requirement of 10 half-courses to complete the degree. This would be the only option.

The M.Ed. degree is designed chiefly for the professional improvement of those who are already engaged in a career related to education. The typical M.Ed. students in our program undertake the degree on a part-time basis in combination with their job. The rationale for the proposal is based on an ongoing examination of how best to structure a “professional” degree that supports the advanced study of practitioners in our program. Although the comprehensive provides a type of test of knowledge across the field, it seems at odds with the emphasis on providing a choice that it is pertinent to the professional development of practitioners. In addition, the program will highlight and clearly differentiate the professional M.Ed. and the research-based M.A.

The program change was approved by the Council of the School of Graduate Studies on November 23, 2004.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

There are no new/additional financial resources required to implement the curriculum change.

RECOMMENDATION:

For Information.