



School of Graduate Studies

University of Toronto

November 25, 2004

Professor Vivek Goel
Vice-President and Provost
Room 225, Simcoe Hall
27 King's College Circle
University of Toronto

Dear Professor Goel:

At its meeting of November 23, 2004, the Council of the School of Graduate Studies approved the following motion:

THAT SGS Council approve the 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.

The motion and supporting documentation are attached. Division II Executive Committee approved this proposal at its meeting of November 3, 2004.

On behalf of the Council of the School of Graduate Studies, I am presenting this item to Governing Council committees for information.

Yours sincerely,

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

Encl. (1)
/gj

c.c.	S. Acker	A. Drummond	C. Johnston	H. Lasthiotakis	V. Makarovska
	A. Miles	S. Pfeiffer	L. Stermac	L. Yee	S. Zaky (attachments)

H:Council/FollowUp/2004-2005/Nov 23/AEC, Adult Ed, MEd, coursework-only

Motion

School of Graduate Studies Council Tuesday, November 23, 2004

Item 8.

8. New Options Within Existing Programs

8.2 Adult Education and Community Development, Master of Education (M.Ed.) Program, Coursework-Only Option, AEC

MOTION (/) THAT SGS Council approve the 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.

See attached.

NOTE:

See rationale attached.

Division II Executive Committee approved this proposal at its meeting of November 3, 2004.

With SGS Council approval, this item will go to Governing Council committees for approval.

PROPOSAL FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ADULT EDUCATION AND COUNSELLING PSYCHOLOGY FOR A COURSEWORK-ONLY M.ED. PROGRAM

Proposal

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 Counselling 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. Additional study may be required either within the degree program or prior to admission, depending on previous experience and academic qualifications. Students are required to successfully complete AEC1100 (Outline of Adult Education) and at least one research methods course.

The Adult Education Community Development program is seeking approval to offer the M.Ed. degree through a "coursework-only" option (Option IV), with a requirement of 10 half-courses to complete the degree. This would be the only option. At least five of the 10 half-courses would be normally undertaken in the program. AEC1100 (Outline of Adult Education) would continue as the only required course, and students would be required to take at least one research methods course.

Background

The *OISE/UT Bulletin*, 2004/2005 (p. 23) outlines the following four options to complete the M.Ed. degree:

Option I – Coursework and Comprehensive Requirement: ten half-courses plus a comprehensive examination/requirement.

Option II – Research Project: eight half-courses plus a research project or a Major Research Paper.

Option III – Thesis: six half-courses plus a thesis.

Option IV – Coursework only: ten half-courses

Each department is required to specify under which of the four options it will offer the M.Ed. degree in its programs. Currently, all Adult Education and Community Development students have been required to take Option I.

The question about which option was best suited to the graduate program in Adult Education and Community Development has been discussed at various points. At the September meeting of the Adult Education and Community Development program, the decision was taken to shift to Option IV, and this decision was supported by the department chair. There also has been a consultation process with our students.

Rationale

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 above motion 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.

Also, an important concern that prompted this change is that some students perceive the comprehensive paper as a thesis equivalent that entitles them to apply to the Ph.D degree. The proposed motion is part of a longer process to more clearly differentiate the professional M.Ed. and the research-based M.A.

Implementation Steps: Students who are currently enrolled In the M.Ed. program in AECD would be given the choice of remaining in Option 1 or switching to Option 1V. A choice of program would be available to them until September 1st 2005. However, if this proposal were approved, all incoming students would be in Option IV.

The *OISE/UT Bulletin for 2005/2006* and *SGS 2005/2006 Calendar* entries will be revised to reflect the change in the option. The relevant sections in the *Bulletin* and *Calendar* would read as follows:

The M.Ed. is a non-thesis degree which can be taken on either a full- or part-time basis. The program of study normally consists of ten half-courses, usually at the 1000 level. At least half of the courses must be from the Adult Education and Community Development Program. Students are required to take course AEC1100, the Introduction to Adult Education, as well as one research methods course.