



# University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

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TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

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DATE: April 22, 2005 for May 11, 2005

AGENDA ITEM: 7 (d)

## **ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

School of Graduate Studies: Regulation change – Transfers for Flexible-Time PhD Options

## **JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Committee receives for information flex-time options for PhD studies approved by SGS Council.

## **PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

The regulations on the Flexible-time Ph.D. degree option were revised so that transfers by students between the flexible-time option and the regular, full-time option would not be permitted.

On a number of recent occasions when proposals to introduce new flexible-time options have been presented to SGS Council, members have expressed concerns in this regard. Normally, students do not request transfer since the conditions for admission to the flexible-time option differ significantly from conditions for admission to the full-time option. The main difference is that flexible-time students must be employed as a professional in a field that is related to the Ph.D. program.

There is concern that full-time Ph.D. students might request transfer to the flexible-time option at the end of four years of study in order to benefit from the ability of students in flexible-time options to enrol part-time beginning in the fifth year of the Ph.D. program. Also, departments are concerned that flexible-time students not be permitted to transfer into the full-time option as a way of securing student financial support; most departments do not provide funding for flexible-time option students because those students are employed full-time and do not require funding.

Exceptional and compelling requests for transfer could be handled through submission to the Admissions and Programs Committee, as is the case with requests for exceptions to any SGS regulation.

The proposal was discussed by the SGS Divisional Executive Committees of Divisions I, III, and IV at meetings in April 2005, and Division II was consulted via e-mail. The change was approved by the Council of the School of Graduate Studies (April 26, 2005).

**FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no financial implications. Restriction on transfers would allow Departments to better manage graduate student funding.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

For Information.