



# University of Toronto

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OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

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

DATE: September 15, 2004 for the meeting on September 22, 2004

AGENDA ITEM: 11(i)

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

School of Graduate Studies: Proposal of the Joseph L. Rotman School of Management to change the requirements of the Ph.D. Program in that MBA distribution requirement no longer be mandatory, effective immediately.

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Committee has general responsibility for policy on, and for monitoring, minor changes within degree programs.

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

The School of Graduate Studies approved this proposal at its Council meeting on May 25, 2004.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

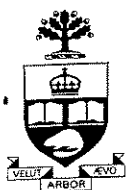
The current distribution requirements oblige all Ph.D. students to take three courses outside of their area of study. The rationale originally was to provide breadth of knowledge in Management. However, there are opportunity costs associated with the distribution requirements. In addition, the Ph.D. job market increasingly places minimal value on breadth of knowledge when hiring. The Rotman School weighed the costs against the presumed benefits of the requirement and concluded that the benefits do not compensate for the costs. Finally, this change will increase the likelihood that Ph.D. students will complete the program within four years.

**FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:**

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

**RECOMMENDATION:**

For Information.



# School of Graduate Studies

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University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

May 28, 2004

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

Dear Professor Goel:

At its meeting of May 25, 2004, the Council of the School of Graduate Studies approved the following motion:

**THAT** SGS Council approve the proposal of Joseph L. Rotman School of Management to change the requirements of the Ph.D. Program, as specified in the attachment, effective immediately.

The motion and supporting documentation are attached. Division II Executive Committee approved the proposal at its meeting of May 5, 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)  
/smr

c.c.	S. Acker	A. Drummond (attachments)	C. Johnston
	V. Makarovska	G. Whyte	
	L. Yee	S. Zaky (attachments)	

H:Council/FollowUp/2003-2004/May 25/Management Ph.D. Program Requirement Change

## Motion

### School of Graduate Studies Council Tuesday, May 25, 2004

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Item 11.

#### 11. Program Requirement Changes

##### 11.5 Management, Ph.D.

**MOTION ( / ) THAT** SGS Council approve the proposal of Joseph L. Rotman School of Management to change the requirements of the Ph.D. Program, as specified in the attachment, effective immediately.

*See attached.*

##### **NOTE:**

Division II Executive Committee approved this proposal at its meeting of May 5, 2004.

With SGS Council's approval this item will go to Governing Council committees for information.



Joseph L. Rotman School of Management  
University of Toronto

# Rotman

To: School of Graduate Studies  
Division II Executive Committee

From: Glen Whyte  
Associate Dean, Curriculum

Date: March 25, 2004

Re: Agenda item for April 7, 2004 Division II Executive Committee meeting

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At the February 12, 2004 Faculty Council meeting, Council members approved that MBA distribution requirements no longer be mandatory in the PhD program. For your reference, I have included the approved motions:

*MOTION 2: Moved by Professor Alan White that MBA distributions requirements in the PhD program no longer be mandatory.*

*MOTION 2.1: Moved by Professor Laurence Booth and seconded by Professor Paul Halpern that Motion 2 be amended to read: That MBA distributions requirements in the PhD program be suspended for two years. The Ph.D. Program Committee is instructed to identify a suitable replacement that meets the objective of the MBA distributions requirements, and it is to report its findings to Executive Committee.*

**AMENDMENT CARRIED (19 for, 10 against)**  
**AMENDED MOTION CARRIED**

Operationally, this means that effective immediately, all currently registered students and intakes in 2004-2005 and 2005-2006 will not be subject to the MBA distribution requirements. Any replacement eventually adopted will not apply to the aforementioned students.