



University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

Appendix 'B' of Report 111 of
AP&P

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

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DATE: November 30, 2004 for December 8, 2004

AGENDA ITEM: 5

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

School of Graduate Studies: Proposal for an In-Program Master of Philosophy Degree (M.Phil.)

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee has the authority to recommend to Academic Board for approval changes that establish a new degree program.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

November 24, 2003 – Graduate Students Union Council – Proposal carried

January 27, 2004 – Proposal passed by School of Graduate Studies Council

May 12, 2004 – Proposal brought forth to the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs. Proposal referred back to administration with the advice that a revised proposal include the following:

- A clearly defined set of criteria to determine the completion an M.Phil.;
- A response to the concern that the proposal introduced an inequity in graduate programs;
- A more complete response to the concern that the degree a reward for non-completion of doctoral programs; and
- Additional supporting documentation from the School of Graduate Studies on the reasons for its support of the degree.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The proposed In-Program M.Phil. graduate degree (see attached summary) would be instituted at the University of Toronto and awarded only to students enrolled in Ph.D. programs that have incorporated the degree. Students would receive this degree en route to the Ph.D., when they have completed all requirements for the degree exclusive of the thesis. Criteria for the determination of the completion of the degree are outlined in the attached summary.

The reasons for the proposal are all based on the premise that graduate students who are engaged in a long, complex degree program can benefit from the identification of scholarly milestones that can affirm their progress and empower them to complete their work. The School of Graduate Studies believes that the presence of the M.Phil., in programs where this type of degree is consistent with scholarly traditions, will be a useful recruitment tool.

After the original proposal was referred back to the administration by AP&P at its May meeting, the proposal was discussed again at the School of Graduate Studies Council on October 26, 2004 and affirmed by the Council with a recommendation to go forth to University Governance with the

additional information requested by AP&P. The proposal was discussed with Principals and Deans on November 25, 2004 and was endorsed by them.

If approved by Governing Council, the proposal for the new degree would go forth to the OCGS Appraisals Committee for consideration of the degree requirements. Subsequent to OCGS acceptance of the guiding principles, **each graduate unit would decide for itself whether the awarding of this degree to its students is consistent with its doctoral program and disciplinary culture and as outlined in the criteria outlined in the attached summary.** A proposal from a graduate unit to offer this degree will require the approval of the relevant divisional executive committee as well as the SGS Council. It is intended that currently registered students and future students in programs that elect to offer the M.Phil. will be eligible for it. Students who have lapsed, and former students who have completed their Ph.D. are not eligible.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

The M.Phil. will be awarded only in absentia; there will be a diploma and a notation on a student's transcript indicating they have been awarded an M.Phil. degree. A modest ROSI upgrade will be required to implement the new degree. There will be some modest ongoing costs associated with the awarding of the degree. These costs will be handled in the same manner as for other degree programs.

The proposal will be going forth to Planning and Budget at the December 7 meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs recommend to the Academic Board for approval:

THAT the School of Graduate Studies proposal for an In-Program Master of Philosophy Degree (M.Phil.) as specified in the attached letter from the School dated November, 2004 be approved.