



University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

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DATE: December 14, 2005

AGENDA ITEM: 6(c)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

School of Graduate Studies: Admission requirements in the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design Master of Landscape Architecture (M.L.A.)

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee has the authority to approve admission policies relating to minor changes to individual programs or to divisional practices and policies.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

HIGHLIGHTS:

The Master of Landscape Architecture (M.L.A.) program is designed as a three and a half year program. The program admits students from a wide range of undergraduate backgrounds. It does not require previous training in architecture. The Faculty currently offers an advanced standing option for students to enter the second year of the program, designed for students who hold “pre-professional” degrees relevant to the discipline, such as the Bachelor of Architectural Studies.

The Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design proposes to offer the possibility of a “post-professional advanced standing option” for entry into the third year of the degree for a small number of highly qualified candidates who hold an accredited professional degree from a recognized university and who are interested in enhancing the professional education they have already received. The year post-professional Master of Landscape Architecture would be obtained in one-year of graduate study (9 months). It would not grant students a professionally accredited degree, rather holding a professionally accredited degree is a prerequisite for admission.

The Faculty notes that the proposed change will enhance the experience of graduate students in the Faculty’s existing degree programs by introducing a small number of incoming students– maximum of three (3) - with professional credentials and experience. Secondly, the incoming post-professional students are offered an opportunity to revisit and refresh their skills in preparation for re-entry into professional practice, as a mid-career transition, or for new career paths in research and teaching. Thirdly, the proposal has the effect of diversifying the various paths into, through, and between the design professions as they also enhance the range of options for advanced professional study. This coincides with increased demand for advanced professional training at mid-career and at various generational junctures for a diverse range of design professionals. Fourthly, the proposal is intended to foster a more diverse student cohort in terms of intellectual development, professional and personal experience. Finally, the proposal has the effect of more fully utilizing our existing faculty cohort and course offerings while simultaneously bringing our degree program streams into symmetry with the offerings of peer institutions in North America.

The proposal was approved by the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape and Design Faculty Council (including graduate student representation), Curriculum Committee and Faculty Executive Committee at the Winter 2005 meeting..The proposal was approved by the Council of the School of Graduate Studies on November 22, 2005.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

The Faculty anticipates that the new optional stream through the existing M.L.A. degree offering will require a single additional course offering per academic year (0.5 credit pro-seminar) and will yield a small number of additional applicants, matriculants, and graduates over the coming years. As such, few budgetary or planning impacts are anticipated. There are no new/additional financial resources required.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs approve:

THAT the Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design offer a Post-Professional Advanced Standing Option in the Master of Landscape Architecture program, as described above, effective September 2006.