



University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

Appendix "C"
Report Number 145 of the Academic Board
October 4, 2006

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

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

DATE: August 28, 2006

AGENDA ITEM: 7

ITEM IDENTIFICATION: School of Graduate Studies: Proposal for a Master of Public Policy (M.P.P.)

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

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

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The proposal was approved by School of Graduate Studies Council on May 23, 2006.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The Master of Public Policy (MPP) degree is a new professional program offered through the School of Public Policy and Governance. This inter-disciplinary program is directed to professional education in two fields of specialization: Social and Economic Policy (domestic), and Global Public Policy. A description of the proposed program and details regarding the academic rational and requirements are outlined in the attached proposal dated April 2006

The School of Public Policy and Governance which, by the time of the OCGS approval, will be established as an extra-departmental unit within the Faculty of Arts & Science with its own budget and authority to offer academic programs, enrol students and administer research grants.

An initiative in public policy was identified as a priority in the University Stepping Up plan as well as in earlier planning cycles. Many Divisional plans showed support for such an initiative in their *Stepping UP* plans¹. A Task Force on Public Policy proposed a model for a School of Public Policy.² The Master of Public Policy will be offered in a 20-month format with an eight-month advanced standing option, beginning in September 2007. .

The School will draw on the multiple clusters of policy-oriented research across the University's three campuses. Participating units include eight faculties plus established and new interdisciplinary centres as outlined in the submission. Initially, core courses will be restricted to those students enrolled in the M.P.P. cohort-based program. However, assuming appropriate future funding, courses will be offered to students enrolled in other programs at the University of Toronto as soon as possible. The Director will report administratively to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science and academically to a Council of Deans, chaired by the Dean, Faculty of Arts and Science. The Council will oversee all critical academic decisions, including major program changes. The Director will in addition establish a Program Committee to deal with admissions and curriculum development on an on-going basis.

¹ Stepping UP – Synthesis

http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/userfiles/page_attachments/library/6/Stepping_Up_Synthesis_11704_3509506.pdf

² Report of the Task Force on Public Policy Studies at the University of Toronto, January 2004

<http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/English/Task-Force-on-Public-Policy-Studies---July-2001.html>

The designation of M.P.P. is an internationally recognized term denoting a “Master of Public Policy”. Consultations on program plans have been undertaken with interested faculty members and with Chairs of the graduate departments of Economics, Geography, Health Policy Management and Evaluation, History, Information Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, Sociology, and Theory and Policy Studies. Meetings, brainstorming sessions and focus groups have been held with senior members of the Ontario Public Service, federal and municipal governments, graduate students, young professionals and potential partners in the private and voluntary sectors.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

The financial plan has been reviewed by the Faculty of Arts and Science and by the Planning and Budget Office. The proposal will be presented to the Planning and Budget Committee on September 18, 2006.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs recommends to the Academic Board:

THAT the Master of Public Policy program leading to the degree of Master of Public Policy (M.P.P.) be established within the Faculty of Arts and Science, commencing September 2007.