



University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

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DATE: December 14, 2007

AGENDA ITEM: 5

ITEM IDENTIFICATION: University of Toronto at Scarborough: 3-Minor Combination for Honours Degrees - Discontinuation

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

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

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The 3-minor option for Honours Degrees was introduced in 1992-93.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The University of Toronto Scarborough proposes the discontinuation of the 3-minor program (each consisting of 4.0 credits) combination for honours degree fulfillment. At present, in order to qualify for an Honours degree at UT Scarborough, students must complete: 1) A specialist program, or 2) Two major programs, or 3) One major program plus two minor programs, or 4) Three minor programs.

Options 1 and 2 have existed since the program requirement was introduced in 1980/81. (At that time U of T Scarborough offered only specialist and major programs.) Minor programs were introduced in 1992/93 and, at the same time, the four-year degree requirements were changed to include Options 3 and 4. Option 4 has not been available to students in the Faculty of Arts and Science or at the University of Toronto at Mississauga since 2000-2001 (except for students who had first registered prior to that year).

Although the 3-minor option allows a student to study three different disciplines it is difficult for a student to achieve the depth of study that is currently expected within an Honours degree. At UTSC the 3-minor option is chosen by under one percent of students graduating with an Honours degree.

There has been extensive consultation on this proposal, including UTSC Department Chairs and the Dean's of UTM and the Faculty of Arts and Science, the Tri-Campus Decanal Committee and the Tri-Campus Undergraduate Issues Committee. It has received the full support of all and the approval of the UTSC Academic Committee and Executive Committee. The proposed change was approved by the University of Toronto Scarborough Academic Committee on December 4, 2007.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

There are no new/additional financial resources required to change the degree requirement. Students who first enrolled at the University of Toronto Scarborough prior to the 2009 Summer Session will be allowed to graduate with the 3-minor program option. Students admitted after the 2009 Summer session would not have this option available to them.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

THAT the proposal for the discontinuation of the three-minor program combination for Honours Degree fulfillment at the University of Toronto Scarborough be approved, effective with the 2009 Summer Session.