



TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs
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DATE: November 18 for the Meeting of November 25, 2008
AGENDA ITEM: 8

ITEM IDENTIFICATION: School of Graduate Studies: Transcript Notation for the Graduate Professional Skills Development Program

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee has authority to approve major amendments to divisional practices that are consistent with the University Grading Practices Policy.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The School of Graduate Studies has developed a new non-academic, co-curricular program in *Graduate Professional Skills Development* in order to enhance graduate students skills in the areas of communication, teaching, planning and time management, entrepreneurship, knowledge of ethics in research and intellectual property issues, working effectively in teams, and leadership. These skills are critical to student career success in addition to the academic disciplinary focus of their degree.

The University of Toronto has an array of offerings in the area generally referred to as “professional development”, both at the unit- and university-wide level. The School of Graduate Studies proposes to harness existing courses and workshops, and formalize their availability in order to offer a Graduate Professional Skills Development program for doctoral-stream graduate students. The program will be optional for students and will consist of a number of offerings such as short courses, workshops, placements, seminars, etc., as described in the attached proposal. The program completion will be recognized as a notation of completion on the student transcript.

Graduate students have indicated that such a program is important to them as is the presence of the notation on a transcript. Other universities are beginning to offer such programs and some mandate a professional development program of this type as part of students’ graduate studies. The program in *Graduate Professional Skills Development* was approved by the School of Graduate Studies Graduate Education Council on October 21, 2008.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

There are no new/additional financial resources required.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs approves:

The addition of a transcript notation for graduate students indicating the successful completion of the Graduate Professional Skills Development program, effective May 2009.