



TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

SPONSOR: Cheryl Regehr, Vice-Provost, Academic Programs

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DATE: January 6, 2010

AGENDA ITEM: **2 – Business Arising from the Report of the Previous Meeting**

ITEM IDENTIFICATION: Dalla Lana School of Public Health and School of Graduate Studies: Proposal to revise the effective date of the motion to change the Public Health Sciences Program degree name from Master of Health Science (M.HSc.) to Master of Public Health (M.P.H.)

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

As per Section 4.7 of its Terms of Reference, the Committee considers various policy matters affecting earned degrees and normally forwards its recommendation to the Academic Board. The Academic Board terms of reference then require confirmation by Executive Committee of Governing Council. Because the proposed change in this case is only to the effective date, Committee level approval is sufficient.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

On September 15, 2009, the Committee recommended the change for the School's Public Health Sciences Program degree name from Master of Health Science (M.HSc.) to Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) effective September 2009. Subsequently, the recommendation was approved under Summer Executive Authority.

HIGHLIGHTS:

When the Dalla Lana School of Public Health degree name change from Master of Health Science (M.HSc.) to Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) was approved by governance, the motion specified that the name change would be effective September 2009. Students currently enrolled in the program would have the option of either the old or new degree name. The documentation also included the University's standard provision that the change would not be retroactive.

However, the motion had the unintended and unfortunate effect of splitting the Program cohort: those who graduated in June, 2009 did not have the same option of choosing the new degree as did their classmates who convocated in November. The School has received requests for this option from several students who graduated with the MHSc in June 2009.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS: N/A

RECOMMENDATION:

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

THAT the Dalla Lana School of Public Health change the name of the Master of Health Science (MHSc) degree to Master of Public Health (MPH), in the Public Health Sciences program, effective *for students graduating in 2009*.