



TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

SPONSOR: Cheryl Regehr, Vice-Provost, Academic Programs

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DATE: August 5, 2009

AGENDA ITEM: 9

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

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs considers all major changes within existing academic programs and recommends to Academic Board proposals for renamed degree programs. The Executive Committee of the Governing Council confirms degree name changes.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

HIGHLIGHTS:

The Master of Public Health (M.P.H.) is the internationally recognized master’s degree for Public Health professionals. The coursework and associated experiences in the existing Master of Health Science (M.H.Sc.) program are equivalent to M.P.H. requirements of other recognized schools of public health (e.g., Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Yale). The Dalla Lana School of Public Health proposes that the professional master’s degree in Public Health Sciences offered by the newly established School be consistent with the widely accepted designation in the field.

This proposal is for a change in the degree title only and will not involve any changes to the admissions or program requirements of the M.H.Sc. program or the program name itself. The program offers degrees in five fields: Community Nutrition, Epidemiology, Family & Community Medicine, Occupational & Environmental Health and Social & Behavioural Health Science. As the Dalla Lana School of Public Health evolves, it may seek accreditation from the Council on Education for Public Health. At that point some changes to the degree program may be required.

This proposal has been discussed at several meetings of the School attended by faculty, staff, and students, as well as at meetings of the M.H.Sc. program directors. It has been approved by the Executive Committee of the Dalla Lana School of Public Health. Students have been consulted, informally, by the M.H.Sc. program directors. The Director of the School has held a town hall meeting with graduate students (January 27, 2009) and has met with the Public Health Sciences Student Association, as well as individual students.

Two Faculty of Medicine departments continue to offer M.H.Sc. degrees: The Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation offers the Master of Health Sciences in Health Administration and the Department of Speech-Language Pathology offers the Master of Health Sciences in Speech-Language Pathology.

The proposed name change was approved by the Executive Committee of the Dalla Lana School of Public Health (February 10, 2009), the Departmental Graduate Curriculum Committee (March 13, 2009), and the Faculty of Medicine Graduate Education Committee (April 30, 2009). The School of Graduate Studies approved this proposal at its Council meeting on May 19, 2009.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

Currently enrolled M.H.Sc. students will have the choice of receiving either the M.H.Sc. or M.P.H. degree beginning with the November 2009 convocation. The change in degree title will not be retroactive for students who have already graduated from the program.

There are no new/additional financial resources required to implement the name change.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

THAT the Dalla Lana School of Public Health change the name of the Master of Health Science (M.H.Sc.) degree to Master of Public Health (M.P.H.), in the Public Health Sciences program, effective September 2009.