



TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

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AGENDA ITEM: 3

ITEM IDENTIFICATION: Faculty of Arts and Science, St. George, Major Calendar Changes, 2011-12

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee has the authority for the approval of changes to curriculum within established degree programs that can be accomplished with existing resources including the addition and deletion of specialist, major and minor programs. More significant changes are recommended to the Academic Board.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

HIGHLIGHTS: The Faculty of Arts and Science is proposing three new undergraduate Major programs; a number of major modifications to existing programs; the deletion of a number of programs, and a number of new minors for the 2011-12 Calendar. The proposed changes are summarized below and presented in greater depth in the attached appendices.

Context:

As a result of ongoing curriculum renewal within the Faculty, the Arts and Science departments, centres and institutes continue to review their programs. Proposals related to undergraduate programs are proposed by academic departments, centres and institutes and then reviewed by the Faculty's Undergraduate Curriculum Committees: Humanities Curriculum Committee, Sciences Curriculum Committee, and Social Sciences Curriculum Committee.¹ Each Committee is composed of teaching staff, students, principals and program academic administrators. Program proposals are reviewed to ensure they are

¹ See <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/faculty-staff/faculty-governance/curriculum-committees> for the schedule and documentation for all the FAS Curriculum Committees

aligned with the Faculty's degree learning expectations² and they meet A&S degree requirements. The Committees meet over the course of the fall to consider and approve the new courses, programs and program requirements proposed by academic units in their respective areas. In addition, the Life Sciences Planning Curriculum Committee reviews all new entries and revisions for courses and programs to be included in the Calendar in order to harmonize Life Sciences courses and programs across the St. George Campus, and to collectively identify possible conflicts for resolution prior to the Science Curriculum Committee meetings.³ There is extensive consultation with and feedback to units and undergraduate co-ordinators regarding the proposals.

Each Curriculum Committee reviews the proposals for new programs, major and minor modifications and program closures. New undergraduate programs include proposals for new specialists and majors for which a similar specialist/major is not already approved. Major program modifications include proposals for majors or specialists where a similar specialist/major currently exists at the undergraduate level as well as significant changes to program contents and program consolidations. Minor changes include proposals for new minor programs, changes in the number of courses required in program, course changes related to curriculum renewal and alignment to degree level expectations, program name changes, and individual new courses and course deletions.

Approvals:

The proposed new program, major and minor modifications and closures for the 2011-12 calendar were approved by the Curriculum Committees (Humanities on November 8, 2010, Sciences on November 9, 2010, and Social Sciences on November 10, 2010) and by the Arts & Science Faculty Council on December 6, 2010. The new programs, major modifications and program closure proposals were reviewed by the Vice-Provost Academic Programs.

New program proposals, major and minor modifications and program closures also require approval by the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs.

Summary:

A. New Programs [Appendix A]

The proposals in Appendix A include the academic rationales, program descriptions, requirements, and learning outcomes for each new program.

Biodiversity and Conservation Biology, BSc, Major
Environmental Biology, BSc, Major
Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

² <http://www.provost.utoronto.ca/policy/academic/DLE.htm>

³ <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/faculty-staff/cpad-info/pdfs/LifeSciencesPlanningCttee.pdf>

Genome Biology, BSc, Major

Department of Cell and Systems Biology, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and Faculty of Medicine Department of Molecular Genetics

Public Policy BA, Major

School of Public Policy and Governance

B. Major Program Modifications [Appendix B]

The proposals in Appendix B include the academic rationale, program descriptions and requirements, and learning outcomes for the programs.

Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, BSc, Specialist

Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
New Specialist where there is an existing major

Computer Science, BSc, Specialist and Major

Department of Computer Science
Consolidation of existing programs.

C. Program deletions [Appendix C]

The proposed program deletions have resulted from the process of curriculum review and renewal. In 2008-09, the Faculty of Arts & Science participated in a curriculum review process and developed degree level expectations for its undergraduate degrees. Since then, the Faculty's academic departments, centres and institutes have been reviewing their program offerings.

The Faculty has traditionally prided itself on the breadth of choice that it offers to students through its approximately 300 major and specialist programs, yet many concerns were raised during the process of Faculty-wide Curriculum Renewal about whether such a vast array of programs best serves students. Guidelines on Design and Review of POST Offerings were discussed and reviewed at the Faculty's Council meeting on March 1, 2010.⁴ The Guidelines ask that, when reviewing or creating programs, units look at the academic rationale, student demand, and level of support for their programs and ensure that they are presenting a range of choices that is attractive and meaningful to students.

⁴ <http://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/faculty-staff/faculty-governance/arts-science-council/arts-science-council-2009-2010/mar-1.10/post-guidelines.pdf>

Academic units have considered whether programs are meaningfully different from other programs and whether students would be able to undertake similar studies enrolled in another existing program. Many of the programs being brought forward for deletion are combined specialists that do not provide students with substantially different options than existing double majors. In other cases, programs often excessively limited student choice. The current consolidation of programs will allow upper year students greater flexibility in course selection. This enhanced choice is important in allowing students to tailor their studies in line with their academic interests.

Students currently enrolled in programs proposed for deletion will be able to complete their programs.

The programs being brought forward for deletion are listed below. Specific rationales for the proposed program deletions are included in Appendix C.

Anthropology (Linguistics and Semiotics), BA, Major
Behaviour, BSc, Specialist
Biogeography, BSc, Specialist
Botany, BSc, Specialist, Major, Minor
Economic History, BA, Major, Minor
Classics, BA, Specialist
Computer Science - Artificial Intelligence, BSc, Specialist
Computer Science – Flexible Option, BSc, Specialist and Major
Computer Science – Foundations, BSc, Specialist
Computer Science – Information Systems, BSc, Specialist
Computer Science – Software Engineering, BSc, Specialist
Computer Science & Economics, BSc, Specialist
Computer Science & Mathematics, BSc, Specialist
Computer Science & Physics, BSc, Specialist
Computer Science & Statistics, BSc, Specialist
Ecology, BSc, Specialist
Evolutionary Biology, BSc, Specialist
Human Computer Interaction, BSc, Specialist
Linguistics & Computing, BSc, Specialist
Linguistics and Languages, BA, Combined Specialist with French, German, Italian, Spanish, Slavic
Semiotics and Communication Theory, BA Major (with Victoria College)
Sociology and Urban Studies, BA, Specialist
Zoology, BSc, Specialist, Major, Minor

D. Minor Program Changes [Appendix D]

i. New Minor programs where there is an existing Specialist/Major:

Asia-Pacific Studies, BA, Minor

Dr. David Chu Program in Asia-Pacific Studies

History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, BA, Minor

Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology

Computer Science, BSc, Minor

Department of Computer Science

(The description of the minor is included in Appendix B with the major modification of the Computer Science program)

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS: There are no new/additional financial resources at the University-level required to implement the proposed new programs.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

The major calendar changes as described in the submission from the Faculty of Arts and Science, St. George campus, effective for the academic year 2011-2012.