



TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

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AGENDA ITEM: 3

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Proposal for the closure of five undergraduate programs currently offered by the Faculty of Arts and Science.

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs has the authority to recommend to the Academic Board for approval the closure of existing degrees and graduate programs. (*AP&P Terms of Reference, Section 4.4.a.iii*)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

HIGHLIGHTS:

This is a proposal for the closure of five undergraduate programs currently offered by the faculty of Arts and Science. These include the following:

1. Anthropology (Biological) Specialist
2. Archaeological Science Major and Specialist
3. Paradigms and Archetypes Minor
4. Philosophy of Science Specialist
5. Molecular Biophysics Specialist

These proposals are a product of the Faculty's curriculum review and renewal process initiated in 2008-09 which asked all academic departments, centres and institutes to review their program offerings and identify program outcomes in line with degree level expectations. In each instance, the decision to close specific program offerings is the result of a thorough assessment and review of the programs offerings of the units and the product of extensive consultation with students as outlined in each detailed proposal. In most instances, the proposals emphasize that other programs will help students to achieve similar if not identical learning outcomes and competencies. In every instance, students in progress will be allowed to complete their current program. What follows is a brief summary of the rationale for each closure.

1. Anthropology: Anthropology (Biological) Specialist

The proposal to close the current Specialist in Anthropology (Biological) program is the result of the need to streamline program offerings in order to offer students clearer choices. Course offerings in the area of biological anthropology will continue to be offered as they count toward the Major in Anthropology (Biological).

The Anthropology Student Association (ASA) discussed the proposed closure of the Anthropology (Biological) Specialist program at their weekly meeting and circulated through their listserv the minutes of these meetings in October 2010 and March 2011. At the St George Anthropology Undergraduate Board (which consists of all St. George undergraduate faculty and 2 representatives from the Anthropology Student Association) meeting April 15, 2011 attended by two ASA student representatives, the following motion was approved: "That the Specialist in Anthropology (Biological) be deleted from our list of programs."

2. Anthropology/Archaeology: Archaeological Science Major and Specialist

The closure of this Major and Specialist is the result of the Department of Anthropology's effort to streamline its undergraduate program offerings. Students interested in archaeological science will be encouraged to complete a Major in Archaeology, with a possible Major in one of the sciences.

The Archaeology Field Representative, in September 2009, met with representatives of the Anthropology Student Association, Near and Middle Civilizations Student Union, Association of Classics Students, and History Students' Association, which cover most of the students who tend to enroll in the archaeology programs. At the October 2009 meeting of the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee meeting, an Anthropology Student Association student representative was present for the discussion of closing the Major in Archaeological Science. Anthropology Student Association representatives discussed the proposed closures at their weekly meeting and circulated through their listserv the minutes of these meetings in October 2009, October 2010, and March 2011. At the St George Anthropology Undergraduate Board meeting April 15, 2011 attended by two ASA student representatives, the following motions were approved: "That the Major in Archaeological Science be deleted from our list of programs" and "That the Specialist in Archaeological Science be deleted from our list of programs."

3. New College: Paradigms and Archetypes Minor

The retirement of two faculty members who taught in the minor program Paradigms and Archetypes has had a significant negative impact on the program's viability. While New College retains the capacity to mount a subset of courses in Jungian Theory, it can no longer sustain a full Minor program. Non-Jungian courses will be phased out.

Students were consulted in September and October 2011 through the Jungian Society, the student group associated with the Paradigms and Archetypes Minor program. The president of the Jungian Society led a student consultation by means of discussions with current and former executives of the Society, an email to the Society's membership and listserv, and discussion with students at an evening event of the Society. In the course of the consultation, the Principal met with the president of the Jungian Society for three extensive conversations, along with the Vice-Principal, the College Registrar, and the Program Director. In the process of this consultation, the College also invited and received feedback from students about future redevelopment of the interdisciplinary Jungian courses that the College will continue to offer. Further conversation with students will take place over the next year about the development of these courses. In early January, the College sent an email to all students enrolled in the Paradigms and Archetypes Minor program to inform them of the proposal for the closure of the program and the provisions made for grandparenting students currently enrolled in the program.

4. Philosophy: Philosophy of Science Specialist

Over the past three years Philosophy has closed most of their combined Specialists on the grounds that the same learning outcomes can be achieved by students combining two existing majors. The content of the Philosophy of Science Specialist may be covered either: 1) in the Philosophy Specialist, with the relevant courses at upper levels; 2) by combining the Philosophy Major with a Major/Minor in History and Philosophy of Science and Technology (HPST); or 3) by combining the Philosophy Major with a Major/Minor in a science discipline.

There are only five students currently enrolled in the Philosophy of Science Specialist (including only one student in first year). The program has notified these students individually about the intention to close the program.

5. Physics: Molecular Biophysics Specialist

Because the interface between Physics and the Biological sciences is a very important growth area, the Department is concentrating their efforts on the existing and more successful Biological Physics Specialist program. Since its first offering (2008-2009), the Biophysics Specialist has not been popular with students in terms of enrollments.

The students currently enrolled in the program, were consulted individually, either by email or in person on the proposed closure of the program.

Proposals for the closure of these undergraduate programs were reviewed by the Faculty's Undergraduate Curriculum Committees: Humanities Curriculum Committee, Sciences Curriculum Committee, and Social Sciences Curriculum Committee. Each Committee is composed of teaching staff, students, principals, and program academic administrators. There has been extensive consultation with and feedback to units regarding the proposals. The

proposed program closures were approved by the Curriculum Committees: Humanities Curriculum Committee (7 November 2011), Sciences Curriculum Committee (8 November 2011), and Social Sciences Curriculum Committee (9 November 2011), and by the Faculty of Arts and Science Council on Council on 6 February 2012.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS: None

RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs approves:

THAT the proposed closure of the following Faculty of Arts and Science undergraduate degree programs

1. Anthropology (Biological) Specialist
2. Archaeological Science Major and Specialist
3. Paradigms and Archetypes Minor
4. Philosophy of Science Specialist
5. Molecular Biophysics Specialist

as described in the proposal from the Faculty, be approved with an effective date of 1 April 2012 for the closure of admissions and an anticipated program closure date of June 2014.