



TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

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DATE: February 3, 2013 for February 26, 2013

AGENDA ITEM: 1

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Proposal for a new graduate Collaborative Program in Musculoskeletal Science, Faculty of Medicine.

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs approves new collaborative graduate programs and new fields in existing graduate programs. (*AP&P Terms of Reference, Section 4.4.b.iii*)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

HIGHLIGHTS:

This is a proposal for a new Collaborative program in Musculoskeletal Sciences. The lead Faculty will be the Faculty of Medicine. The collaborative program will be supported by the Institute of Medical Science, and the newly established Toronto Musculoskeletal Centre, a type “C” Extra Departmental Unit (EDU) focused on interdisciplinary musculoskeletal research. The proposed new Collaborative program will focus on the education and the training of graduate students to develop and carry out musculoskeletal research, with an aim to educate students in how their work fits into the larger community of musculoskeletal research that stretches from bench to bedside to society. The program’s goal is to create leaders in the field of musculoskeletal sciences who will possess the knowledge and capability to bring about transformational change in this health research area.

In line with the Province’s Quality Assurance Framework, the University of Toronto understands a collaborative program to be “an intra-university graduate program that provides an additional multidisciplinary experience for students enrolled in and completing the degree requirements for one of a number of approved programs. Students meet the admission requirements of and register in the participating (or ‘home’) program but complete, in addition to the degree requirements of that program, the additional requirements specified by the collaborative program. The degree conferred is that of the home program, and the completion of the

collaborative program is indicated by a transcript notation indicating the additional specialization that has been attained.”¹ The learning outcomes of a collaborative program are in addition to those supported by the home program.

As explained in the program rationale, the University of Toronto has one of the largest musculoskeletal research communities in the world, dispersed across a wide range of specific disciplines including: immunology, cell biology, molecular medicine and genomics, muscle physiology, imaging, pathology, bioengineering and, related clinical areas such as orthopaedics, rheumatology, dentistry, kinesiology, rehabilitation, injury prevention, and pain management. The proposed collaborative program is intended to bring together students and faculty dispersed across the University in a focused and purposeful way and (2) encouraging collaboration across a wide spectrum of medical-related disciplines within the University through the core course and seminar series. Page 2 of the proposal lists the Participating programs at the masters and doctoral levels.

There is only one other similar program in North America at the University of Rochester.

The final proposal received approval from the Faculty of Medicine Council on February 11, 2013.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS: Any new/additional financial obligations resulting from this program will be met at the Faculty/Divisional level.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs approves:

THAT the proposed graduate Collaborative Program in Musculoskeletal Sciences, as described in the attached proposal from the Faculty of Medicine dated October 15, 2012, be approved effective for the academic year September 2013.

¹ COU Quality Assurance Framework, page 4. [http://www.cou.on.ca/related-sites/the-ontario-universities-council-on-quality-assura/pdfs-\(1\)/quality-assurance-framework---guide-may-2012](http://www.cou.on.ca/related-sites/the-ontario-universities-council-on-quality-assura/pdfs-(1)/quality-assurance-framework---guide-may-2012)