UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL

FOR INFORMATION **PUBLIC** **OPEN SESSION**

TO:	Committee on Academic Policy and Programs
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DATE:	April 26, 2018 for May 10, 2018
AGENDA ITEM:	11

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Semi-Annual Report on the Reviews of Graduate Collaborative Specializations: 2017-18

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) Terms of Reference (Sections 3 and 4.9) states that "The Committee…has general responsibility…for monitoring, the quality of education and the research activities of the University. In fulfilling this responsibility, the Committee works to ensure the excellent quality of academic programs by…monitoring reviews of existing programs….The Committee receives annual reports or such more frequent regular reports as it may determine, on matters within its purview, including reports on the …[r]eviews of academic units and programs."

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. **Committee on Academic Policy and Programs** [For Information] (May 10, 2018)

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

Governing Council approved *the Policy for Approval and Review of Academic Programs and Units* in 2010. The *Policy* outlines University-wide principles for the approval of proposed new academic programs and review of existing programs and units. Its goal is to align the University's quality assurance processes with the Province's Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) through establishing the authority of the *University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process* (UTQAP).

The scope of the UTQAP includes collaborative specializations. In line with the QAF, the University understands a collaborative specialization to be "an intra-university graduate field of study that provides an additional multidisciplinary experience for students enrolled in and completing the degree requirements of one of a number of approved masters and/or PhD 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 Specialization. The degree conferred is that of the home program. The completion of the Collaborative Specialization is indicated by a transcript notation indicating the additional specialization." The learning outcomes of a collaborative specialization are in addition to those supported by the home program.

In the fall of 2015 the *Guidelines* governing these offerings were revised, establishing the lead Dean of the collaborative specialization as the review Commissioning Officer; previously the Vice-Provost, Graduate Research and Education and Dean of the School of Graduate Studies commissioned collaborative program reviews. Because of the unique nature of collaborative specializations, their review process focuses on the quality of the "additional multidisciplinary experience" that collaborative specializations provide, over and above the experience associated with the home program. Reviews emphasize elements that are critical to determining ongoing quality of collaborative specializations at the University of Toronto, including:

1. Clarity and appropriateness of requirements
2. Evidence of successful attainment of learning outcomes
3. Evidence of ongoing need and demand
4. Continuing support of participating programs and supporting units (e.g. renewal of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA))

The Semi-Annual Report on the Reviews of Graduate Collaborative Specializations was previously submitted to the AP&P on May 9, 2017.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Two (2) external reviews of collaborative specializations commissioned by the lead Dean of each collaborative specialization were conducted in 2017-18. These reviews include one collaborative specialization led by Medicine (Resuscitation Sciences), and one led by Arts and Science (Genome Biology & Bioinformatics). The submission to the AP&P consists of a table containing a summary of the review outcomes.

The review of the Collaborative Specialization in Rehabilitation Science (CSRS) confirmed the appropriateness of the program requirements and the steady demand for the CSRS. One future challenge identified is the sustainability of program funding. Overall, the CSRS was deemed a unique program with many strengths, and the MOA was recommended for renewal.

The review of the Collaborative Specialization of Genome Biology & Bioinformatics (CSGBB) identified that the program is going through a renewal, which involves careful consideration of

the program requirements, and how they support the learning objectives, and the implementation of strategies to maintain the recent upward trend of enrolments. Overall, there is renewed enthusiasm for the CSGBB and program vitality has improved; the MOA was recommended for renewal.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

- Semi-Annual Report on the Reviews of Graduate Collaborative Specializations:2017-2018

University of Toronto
Semi-Annual Report on Graduate Collaborative Specialization Reviews, Cycle 6, 2017-18
Collaborative Specializations Reviews are Commissioned by the Dean of the Lead Faculty

Collaborative Specialization (CS) Definition: "an intra-university graduate field of study that provides an additional multidisciplinary experience for students enrolled in and completing the degree requirements of one of a number of approved masters and/or PhD 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 Specialization. The degree conferred is that of the home program. The completion of the Collaborative Specialization is indicated by a transcript notation indicating the additional specialization." (Quality Assurance Framework)

The learning outcomes of a collaborative specialization are in addition to those supported by the home program.

Collaborative Specialization & Lead Faculty	Participating Programs & Degrees	Appropriateness of Collaborative Specialization Requirements	Vitality of Collaborative Specialization	Other Strengths or Challenges Identified	Review Outcome
Resuscitation Sciences (CSRS) **Lead Faculty:** Medicine **Date of Summary Assessment Report:** November 7, 2017	Biomedical Engineering—PhD Clinical Engineering—MHSc Community Health—MScCH Health Policy, Management and Evaluation—MSc, PhD Immunology—MSc, PhD Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology—MSc, PhD Mechanical and Industrial Engineering—MASc, MEng, PhD Medical Science—MSc, PhD Nursing Science—MN, PhD Pharmacology—MSc, PhD Physiology—MSc, PhD Public Health Sciences—MPH, MSc, PhD Rehabilitation Science—MSc, PhD	The CSRS provides clear learning outcomes for students. The CSRS offers a curriculum with learning outcomes that promote curiosity, collaboration, critical thinking and translational knowledge, contributing to a fundamental skill set for a career in research.	The CSRS enjoys a loyal, supportive faculty and consistent enrollment of between 7-12 graduate students per academic year. The CSRS conceptualizes and hosts a unique and popular biennial scientific meeting called Resuscitation in Motion (RiM).	Going forward, sustainable funding remains a challenge for the CSRS. The CSRS has many strengths. The CSRS is a unique program in resuscitation sciences in Canada, because the CSRS draws trainees from various disciplines and offers curriculum that goes beyond the clinical realm. One of the future aims is to build on the success of the CSRS towards a comprehensive training strategy that will identify opportunities for internships across our industry network	MOA is recommended for renewal.
Genome Biology & Bioinformatics **Lead Faculty:** Arts & Science **Date of Summary Assessment Report:** March 14, 2018	Biochemistry—PhD Biomedical Engineering—PhD Cell and Systems Biology—PhD Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry—PhD Computer Science—PhD Ecology and Evolutionary Biology—PhD Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology—PhD Medical Biophysics—PhD Medical Science—PhD Molecular Genetics—PhD	This collaborative specialization offers graduate students the opportunity to learn advanced theoretical knowledge of genome biology and bioinformatics, in addition to gaining technical expertise in these disciplines. The requirements are designed to ensure that the students meet the learning objectives of the program, which include training	From 2009-2013, the collaborative specialization had relatively healthy and stable enrolments (17-18 students/year) that drew from a range of Departments. During 2013-2015, the previous Director did not admit any new students, and the enrolment numbers dropped to less than one-third of their historic average. However, under	This collaborative specialization is undergoing a renewal, which includes the refinement of program requirements, increased student recruitment, and increased faculty and Department participation. The newly appointed Director has brought renewed enthusiasm for the collaborative specialization, which	MOA is recommended for renewal. Implementation plans to address the concerns identified: - To ensure that the program requirements continue to meet the learning objectives, a new core course will be developed and an additional forum will be

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Collaborative Specialization & Lead Faculty	Participating Programs & Degrees	Appropriateness of Collaborative Specialization Requirements	Vitality of Collaborative Specialization	Other Strengths or Challenges Identified	Review Outcome
		students to meet the current demand in academia and industry, to provide a forum for scientific interaction and community building, to stimulate collaboration between labs and across academic units, and to promote excellence in research and teaching in genome biology and bioinformatics. Some concern has been raised that the requirements for completing the program are relatively high and may negatively impact time to completion.	new leadership the enrolment has begun to grow with six new PhD students being recently admitted. There are also five new participating faculty members. Thus, the vitality of the collaborative specialization has increased significantly in the last two years, with the appointment of a new Director. This collaborative specialization is intended for graduate students whose research programs are focused on genome biology and bioinformatics, however the current program enrolments and offerings appear more focused on bioinformatics.	is now poised to regain its previous vitality.	created for student and faculty seminars that supplements the Toronto Bioinformatics User Group seminars. -The Director will address the issue of high program requirements by (i) reviewing the current requirements in related Collaborative Specializations, and (ii) consulting with participating programs. If the workload for this Specialization is deemed too onerous, a revised set of requirements will be established. - To increase student enrolment, a new recruitment website will be built, existing program materials will be rebranded, an updated MoU will be drafted, a new faculty member from Medical Biophysics will be added, and a supporting unit will be identified to provide administrative support. - The Director will also work to achieve more of a balance between the two disciplines, by ensuring that course offerings, research seminars, and Principal Investigators also represent genome biology.