



TO: Planning and Budget Committee

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DATE: April 23, 2010 for May 5, 2010

AGENDA ITEM: 4

ITEM IDENTIFICATION: Faculty of Law and School of Graduate Studies: Proposal for a Global Professional Master of Laws (G.P.L.L.M)

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Excerpt from the terms of reference for the Planning and Budget Committee:

4.4.2. The Committee advises the Academic Board on the planning and resource implications of plans and proposals to establish disestablish or significantly restructure academic programs. Implications might include significant planning and budgetary changes within the division or significant effects on other divisions, the University as a whole and the public.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

HIGHLIGHTS:

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

The proposed Global Professional Master of Laws (G.P.L.L.M.) is an innovative, new legal program, unique in North America. The program examines the impact of globalization on laws, legal institutions, modern societies, markets, and businesses from a broad multi-disciplinary, transnational and comparative legal perspective. It is the first master's level degree in North America that is aimed at addressing these areas of interest and need.

The initial target population for the G.P.L.L.M. is practicing lawyers, and leaders in government and business who have substantial experience representing clients, businesses and institutions that are international in scope. As legal practice becomes increasingly transnational, lawyers are frequently called upon to advise businesses, individuals, and governments on matters that transcend national borders. Today's lawyers must operate at a very high level in a global business environment and must possess broad international and transnational perspectives and sophisticated understanding of international legal issues, laws, and legal institutions. Other professionals in government and business have similar needs and face similar demands and challenges. Broad demand for the program is anticipated.

The program's academic requirements and rigour are consistent with the Faculty's existing Master's level graduate law programs. As with the regular J.D. and graduate law programs courses, the G.P.L.L.M. will be taught by a combination of full-time faculty, distinguished adjunct professors, and distinguished visiting professors. It will be offered as a full-time one-year degree program involving a total of 24 credit hours that is completed over the course of three consecutive academic sessions (September to August). Over the course of the program, students will complete a minimum of 240 hours of mandatory in-class instruction. All courses will be offered in the evening and on the weekends which will allow those enrolled in the program to continue working full-time while completing the requirements of the program. Courses in the G.P.L.L.M. will be taught on the same basis as those in the regular J.D. and graduate programs; that is, they will be taught by a combination of full-time faculty, distinguished adjunct professors who are chosen for their specific area expertise and knowledge, and distinguished visiting professors from leading institutions around the world.

The Faculty of Law has consulted with the Rotman School of Management regarding the proposal and the Rotman School is supportive of the proposal. There is no significant overlap with current or planned offerings at the Rotman School. The proposal was approved by the Faculty of Law Council on March 30, 2010, and the School of Graduate Studies Graduate Education Council on April 20, 2010. This proposal will be presented for approval to the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs on May 11, 2010.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

The Faculty of Law has committed to providing all the resources needed for this program. The financial plan has been reviewed by the Planning and Budget Office. The G.P.L.L.M. program projects an initial intake of 30 students, increasing to 45 in its second year and the targeted maximum of 120 per year students in its fifth year. It will draw primarily upon existing Law faculty members. The resources necessary to offer the program will be provided by a combination of funding from tuition and BIU revenue generated by student enrolment. In steady state projected revenue is \$1.3 million from operating grant and \$3.6 million from tuition. The program is projected to be self-funded within the first two years.

The program will be accommodated within the Faculty of Law's space, using primarily existing offices, shared classrooms and student workspace. All of the seminar courses will be offered in the evenings or on the weekends when the regular J.D. and LL.M. program classes are not held. There will not be any additional space and facility demands placed upon the Faculty of Law as a result of the introduction of this program.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Planning and Budget Committee concurs with the recommendation of the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs:

THAT the proposed G.P.L.L.M. program be approved, with enrolment commencing September, 2011.