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

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

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DATE: October 20, 2020 for October 27, 2020

AGENDA ITEM: 3

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Digital Diploma Project Implementation

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs has the authority to approve policy matters affecting earned degrees, diplomas and certificates, including their design and issuance of replacements. *(AP&P Terms of Reference, Section 4.7)*

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. **Academic Policy and Programs [for information] (October 27, 2020).**

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

The Transcript Innovation Initiative (UofT.me/TII) was launched in late 2018, with the goal of exploring future enhancements to the University of Toronto transcript. The TII includes an official electronic transcript (eTranscript) and the notion of an extended transcript that would capture more information about the student experience (e.g., link to Co-Curricular Record, awards record, course information, degree-level learning outcomes).

As part of the Initiative, in November 2019 the University rolled out a new and enhanced digital transcript in collaboration with Parchment, a digital credentialing company. To further enhance

the goals of the TII, while continuing to build on the existing relationship with Parchment, the University is launching a digital diploma to complement the paper parchment. The addition of a digital diploma is the next step in ensuring security and authenticity of UofT credentials, while providing improved services to our students.

HIGHLIGHTS:

This project is a collaboration between Enrolment Services, EASI, and the Office of Convocation to implement the Parchment Award Module (Digital Diploma) for November 2020 convocation ceremonies.

(N.B. The project also includes retroactively issuing Digital Diplomas for June grads, in recognition of the impact of Covid-19 on the graduation experience.)

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

University of Toronto does not have an approved cost recovery fee associated with the digital diploma. In addition, there are Ministry directives that may prohibit the charging of a fee for this purpose.

Currently, peer AAU institutions and some Canadian schools (e.g., McMaster, Ryerson) are issuing Digital Diplomas as a value-added service and not a replacement of the physical parchment. In most cases, there are no additional charges to students associated with issuing of digital diplomas. Our current agreement with the Parchment allows for additional credential features at the agreed cost of CAD$3 per digital diploma.

Annual cost for issuing 21,000 Digital Diplomas is $64,000 will be covered through the University of Toronto Transcript Center operating budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information only.

DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED:

Examples of Digital Diploma security features