



University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

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DATE: August 21, 2007

AGENDA ITEM: 7

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

School of Graduate Studies / Faculty of Arts and Science: Closure of the Geography, Joint Master of Spatial Analysis Program (M.S.A.)

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs has authority to recommend for approval changes that involve joint programs with external institutions.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

Governing Council approved the establishment of the M.S.A. on November 4, 1999.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The University of Toronto Department of Geography and the Ryerson University School of Applied Geography established the Joint Master of Spatial Analysis Program (M.S.A.) with the aim of providing an innovative program that built on the strengths of the participating units. Since that time, the academic focus of the Department of Geography has changed and reasons for the program closure include low demand in recent years, disproportionate enrolment of Ryerson versus U of T students, and faculty complement changes at U of T. The Department of Geography therefore proposes to withdraw from the MSA program and to close the program at the University of Toronto.

The proposed closure has been extensively discussed within the department. A series of meetings with Ryerson University administrators have been held to review the withdrawal of U of T from the program. In October 2006, the Dean of Graduate Studies, Ryerson, agreed to the dissolution of the joint program. The Geography department's Graduate Committee approved the withdrawal on February 5, 2007 and the Geography Council approved of the withdrawal on March 20, 2007. The School of Graduate Studies Graduate Education Council approved the program closure on May 22, 2007. There are no U of T students currently enrolled in the program. Following the program closure at U of T, Ryerson University will assume full responsibility for the program.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS: N/A

This proposal will be presented for concurrence to the Planning and Budget Committee on September 18, 2007.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs recommends to Academic Board:

THAT the proposal from the School of Graduate Studies and the Faculty of Arts and Science to close the Joint Master of Spatial Analysis (M.S.A.) Program at the University of Toronto be approved, effective immediately.