



# 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: 5

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:** School of Graduate Studies / Faculty of Arts and Science:  
Proposal for a Master of Science (M.Sc.) and Doctoral (Ph.D.) program in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Committee has authority to recommend to Academic Board for approval changes which establish a new degree program.

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

The establishment of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (EEB) was approved by Governing Council on February 9, 2006 effective as of July 1, 2006<sup>1</sup>.

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

The proposed programs in EEB arise from the re-organization of biological sciences in the Faculty of Arts and Science that resulted in the formation of the Department of Cell and Systems Biology (CSB) and the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (EEB). At the time of the reorganization, it was indicated that the new graduate departments would work towards the development of new programs.

The proposed programs aim to provide more focused graduate studies that are well-aligned with student interest and demand. The new EEB graduate program was developed by the department's Graduate Affairs Committee (GAC) and included extensive consultation with the Department's graduate students and faculty members, as well as input from cognate units in the Faculty and with other divisions in the University. Elements of the previous Botany and Zoology graduate programs appear in the new EEB proposal, but there are new features as well.

The MSc and PhD proposals were accepted following unanimous department faculty approval and majority graduate student approval. The proposals were approved by the Tri-Campus Graduate Curriculum Committee of the Faculty of Arts and Science (April 30, 2007) and by the Graduate Education Council (May 22, 2007).

The two existing graduate programs (Plant & Microbial Biology and Zoology) will continue to be jointly administered by the CSB and EEB departments; and the programs will continue until there are no more students registered in each program.

**FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:**

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<sup>1</sup> Item 5f: <http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/Assets/Boards+and+Committees/Governing+Council/2005-2006+Academic+Year/a0209.pdf>

Establishment of the new graduate programs for EEB should have no new resource demands beyond those of the previous departments. This proposal will be presented to the Planning and Budget Committee on September 18, 2007.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

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

THAT the proposal to establish the Master of Science (M.Sc.) and Doctoral (Ph.D.) programs in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology within the Faculty of Arts and Science be approved, effective September, 2008.