



TO: Planning and Budget Committee

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DATE: August 21, 2007

AGENDA ITEM: 8

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

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. Those 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:

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.) in 1999 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 Geography Department therefore proposes to withdraw from the M.S.A 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 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.

This proposal will be presented to the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs on September 10, 2007.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS: N/A

Following the program closure at U of T, Ryerson University will be assuming full responsibility of the program.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

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.