



University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

SPONSOR: Edith Hillan
CONTACT INFO: edith.hillan@utoronto.ca

DATE: November 30, 2004 for December 8, 2004

AGENDA ITEM: 8 (a)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

School of Graduate Studies: Proposal from the Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning to offer the Master of Education (M.Ed.) Curriculum Program as a coursework only program, effective September 2005.

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee receives for information minor changes within degree programs.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

October 26, 2004 – Approved by the Council of the School of Graduate Studies

HIGHLIGHTS:

The Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning (CTL) will offer the M.Ed. degree through a “coursework-only” option (Option IV), with a requirement of 10 half-courses to complete the degree (see executive summary attached). Five of the half courses would be normally undertaken in the program. CTL 1000 (*Foundation of Curriculum*) would continue as the only required course. The coursework-only option will replace the current “research project” paper option (Option II -- eight half-courses plus a Masters Research Paper). The current research project option would continue to be available to students currently enrolled in the program. However, as of the 2005-6 round of admissions, only the coursework M.Ed. option will be offered to new applicants.

The proposal is part of a longer process to more clearly differentiate the professional M.Ed. and the research-based M.A. degrees that was addressed in the CTL self study conducted for the OCGS review (2002/2003) and again as part of the CTL academic planning process in 2003/2004. The proposed change was developed as a result of considerable consultation with faculty and students over the last two years. The proposal was approved by CTL Council in May 2004, and the final wording of the SGS submission was again discussed by the CTL Program Advisory Committee and at CTL Council in September, 2004.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

There are no new/additional financial resources required to implement the changes in the program.

RECOMMENDATION:

For Information.



School of Graduate Studies

University of Toronto

November 17, 2004

Professor Vivek Goel
Vice-President and Provost
Room 225, Simcoe Hall
27 King's College Circle
University of Toronto

Dear Professor Goel:

At its meeting of October 26, 2004, the Council of the School of Graduate Studies approved the following motion:

THAT SGS Council approve the proposal of the Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning to offer the Master of Education (M.Ed.) Curriculum Program as a coursework only program, effective September 2005.

The motion and supporting documentation are attached. Division II Executive Committee approved the proposal at its meeting of October 26, 2004.

On behalf of the Council of the School of Graduate Studies, I am presenting this item to Governing Council committees, for information.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Alderdice
Secretary to SGS Council
and Coordinator of Policy, Program and Liaison

Encl. (1)

/gj

c.c. S. Acker A. Drummond C. Johnston H. Lasthiotakis V. Makarovska
 S. Pfeiffer D. Thiessen L. Yee S. Zaky (attachments)

H:Council/FollowUp/2004-2005/Oct 26/MEd Dept of CT& L, Coursework Only



School of Graduate Studies

University of Toronto

November 22, 2005

Professor Vivek Goel
Vice-President and Provost
Room 225, Simcoe Hall
27 King's College Circle
University of Toronto

Dear Professor Goel:

RE: Item # 6.1: October 26, 2004 School of Graduate Studies Council Agenda

As regards the proposal from the Department of Adult Education and Counselling Psychology for a Flexible-time Ph.D. Option in their Adult Education and Community Development Program, the School of Graduate Studies altered the effective date to September 2005.

In discussions with the Department, it was understood that the change is intended to be effective for new students for the 2005-2006 academic year. Therefore, the change will appear in the 2005-2006 SGS Calendar. This was agreed upon as an appropriate effective date.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane'.

per Jane Alderdice
Policy, Programs and Liaison Coordinator
and
SGS Council Secretary

/gj

cc. H. Lasthiotakis A. Drummond S. Zaky

Motion

School of Graduate Studies Council Tuesday, October 26, 2004

Item 6.

New Options Within Existing Degree Programs

6.2 Master of Education (M.Ed.) Program, Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning, Coursework-Only

MOTION (/) THAT SGS Council approve the proposal of the Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning to offer the Master of Education (M.Ed.) Curriculum Program as a coursework only program, effective September 2005.

See attached.

NOTE:

See rationale in the attached letter.

The proposal was approved by CTL Council in May 2004, and the final wording of the SGS submission was again discussed by the CTL Program Advisory Committee and at CTL Council in September, 2004.

Division II Executive Committee approved this proposal at its meeting of October 6, 2004.

With SGS Council approval, this item will go to Governing Council committees for information only.

MOTION

Division II Executive Committee Meeting
Wednesday October 6th 2004.

PROPOSAL FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM, TEACHING AND LEARNING FOR A COURSEWORK-ONLY M.ED. PROGRAM

Motion: That the Master of Education (M.Ed.) degree requirement in the Curriculum program be changed from Option II (Eight half courses plus a masters research project) to Option IV (10 half-course coursework only) effective January 1st 2005.

Proposal

The M.Ed. degree is one of four degrees (also M.A., Ed.D. and Ph.D. degrees) offered within the Curriculum program in the Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning (CTL). At present, the M.Ed. program of study consists of eight half-courses, four of which are normally undertaken in the Program, plus a Major Research Paper (MRP), and may be taken on a full- or part-time basis. Additional study may be required either within the degree program or prior to admission, depending on previous experience and academic qualifications. Students are required to successfully complete CTL1000H. (*OISE/UT Bulletin, 2004/2005, p.68*).

The Curriculum program is seeking approval to offer the M.Ed. degree through a “coursework-only” option (Option IV), with a requirement of 10 half-courses to complete the degree. Five of the half courses would be normally undertaken in the program. CTL 1000 (*Foundation of Curriculum*) would continue as the only required course. The coursework-only option will replace the current “research project” option (Option II- eight half-courses plus a Masters Research Paper or MRP). The current research project option would continue to be available to students currently enrolled in the program. However, as of the 2005-6 round of admissions, we propose to offer only the coursework M.Ed. option to new applicants.

Background

The *OISE/UT Bulletin, 2004/2005* (p.23) outlines the following four options to complete the M.Ed. degree:

Option I - Coursework and Comprehensive Requirement: ten half-courses plus a comprehensive examination/requirement.

Option II - Research Project: eight half-courses plus a research project or a Major Research Paper.

Option III – Thesis: six half-courses plus a thesis.

Option IV - Coursework only: ten half-courses

Each department is required to specify under which of the four options it will offer the M.Ed. degree in its programs.

Until recently, the three programs in CTL (Curriculum, Teacher Development, Second Language Education) have offered the M.Ed. degree under Option II. Currently 567 active and 301 registered students are enrolled in the full time and part time M.Ed. degrees in these three programs. Of these, there are 334 active and 159 registered student in the Curriculum program, all currently undertaking the degree under Option II, the majority of whom are doing so on a part-time basis. In the fall of 2003, Division II of SGS and SGS Council approved the proposal of Second Language Education to offer a coursework only M.Ed. degree (Option IV). See the *OISE/UT Bulletin, 2004/2005*, page 88.

Rationale

The M.Ed. degree is designed chiefly for the professional improvement of those who are already engaged in a career related to education. The typical M.Ed. student undertakes the degree on a part-time basis and, upon graduation, usually continues to pursue her/his career as an elementary or a secondary school teacher, or an educator in related fields. The rationale for the above motion is based on an ongoing examination of how best to structure a “professional” degree that supports the advanced study of curriculum practices for teachers or educators in this field.

One area of concern across all programs, initially raised by OCGS reviews in previous years, was the need to distinguish the professional and academic degrees. While the examination of the differences between professional and research-based degrees have focused more on doctoral programs, that is between the Ed.D. and Ph.D. degrees (e.g., in the CTL ED.D. Task Force, 2003), the faculty have also addressed this matter for our masters programs during both the self study conducted for the OCGS review (2002/2003) and again as part of the CTL academic planning process in 2003/2004. The proposed motion is part of a longer process to more clearly differentiate the professional M.Ed. and the research-based M.A. degrees. Changes to further differentiate the requirements for the Ed.D. and Ph.D. degrees require further study (a review strategy has been established for 2004/2005) and will likely come to SGS in 2005.

We began the differentiation process by strengthening the theoretical and research training offered in the M.A. degree. Beginning in 2004/2005, students entering the M.A. degree must take a course in research methods selected from an approved course listing (approved by Division II on March 3rd, 2004 and by SGS on March 23rd 2004).

The proposed change of the M.Ed. degree from Option II to Option IV is the next step in this differentiation process. In the OISE/UT M.Ed. options, the MRP is

equivalent to two half-courses. A ten half-course option enhances the depth of study in the field by increasing by one the minimum requirement in the program of registration (from four courses in Option II to five courses in Option IV). The combined impact of requiring 10 half-courses and sustaining the longstanding commitment to maximizing student choice in courses (students have one required half-course [CTL 1000] and then can choose their other nine courses) improves the breadth of study in the field and allows students to tailor their course selections to suit their professional needs and interests. Both students and faculty in the Curriculum program (see **Review process** below) support this change. The requirements of the coursework only option are clearly different from the current requirements of the M.A. degree and further demarcate the M.Ed. degree as a professional degree.

The importance of theory and research in the M.Ed. program will continue, though no longer centred on the exit requirement of an MRP. While we do not feel that all M.Ed. students should be required to conduct a small-scale study (MRP), the M.Ed. degree will provide those students who want to apply knowledge in improvement-oriented studies with a chance to do so in action research, teacher research, or school-based inquiries in a number of courses (for example: CTL 1014-*Evaluation of Curriculum and Instruction*, CTL 1105- *Research and Inquiry in Arts Education*, CTL 1211: *Action Research in Science and Technology Education*, CTL 1213: *Teacher Research in Mathematics Education*, CTL 4012: *Thoughtful Teaching and School and Practitioner Inquiry*). Each masters-level curriculum course will also continue to introduce students to relevant theories and research in ways that require critical review, synthesis, and application to their work. Though the form and place of theory and research in Option IV is somewhat different from Option II, the significance of theory and research in the M.Ed. degree is comparable to the other options and distinct from the requirements of the M.A. degree (especially in terms of the research methods course and thesis requirements).

Review process. This proposed change was developed as a result of considerable consultation with faculty and students over the last two years. Following program-based discussion during the 2002/2003 OCGS-based self study and the department-wide discussion during the 2003/2004 academic planning process, the proposal was further discussed at Curriculum faculty meetings, at the Curriculum Program Committee, and through the CTL Student Association over the last six months. Open e-mail correspondence extended the participation of students currently in the program (posted to 600 students on the Curriculum program ListServ). The response was overwhelmingly positive. The following excerpt from one of the part-time M.Ed. student illustrates what most of the feedback stated or suggested: “As an M.Ed. student, I would definitely support this alternative. As a full-time teacher, courses are extremely useful for me in enhancing my portfolio and in assisting with fresh new ideas (both theoretical and practical).....”.

The proposal was approved by CTL Council in May 2004, and the final wording of the SGS submission was again discussed by the CTL Program Advisory Committee and at CTL Council in September, 2004.

Implementation Steps. Students who are currently enrolled in the M.Ed. program in Curriculum would be given the choice of remaining in Option II or switching to Option IV. A choice of program would be available to them until June 2005.

The *OISE/UT Bulletin for 2005/2006* and *SGS 2005/2006 Calendar* entries will be revised to reflect the change in the option. The relevant sections in the *Bulletin* and *Calendar* would read as follows:

.....The M.Ed. program of study consists of ten half-courses, five of which are normally undertaken in the Program, and may be taken on a full- or part-time basis. Additional study may be required either within the degree program or prior to admission, depending on previous experience and academic qualifications. Students are required to successfully complete CTL 1000H. All requirements for the degree must be completed within six years from first enrolment.