



University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

SPONSOR: Edith Hillan
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DATE: November 30, 2004 for December 8, 2004

AGENDA ITEM: 8 (b)

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

School of Graduate Studies: Proposal of the Department of Adult Education and Counselling Psychology for a Flexible-time Ph.D. option within the Adult Education and Community Development Program, effective September 2005

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee receives for information flex-time options for PhD studies approved by SGS Council.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

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

HIGHLIGHTS:

The doctoral students in Adult Education and Community Development (AECD) are predominantly employed in organizations external to the formal school system. Some of these students are admitted into the doctorate directly from the master's degree studies in AECD. Maturity and practical experience, preferably in areas related to adult education, are characteristics of most AECD doctoral applicants, and are considered advantageous characteristics. To capitalize fully on that strength, AECD proposes to offer the flexible-time Ph.D., in addition to the full-time Ph.D., beginning in September 2005. Details of the proposal are to be found in the attached summary documentation.

The addition of a flexible-time PhD Program will have no impact on the full-time PhD Program. The Admission process will be the same for flexible-time PhD applicants as for full-time applicants. The addition of a flexible-time PhD option will not increase the overall quota of doctoral students. Flexible-time PhD completion stages will be the same as for the full-time PhD with an overall time limit for completion of 8 years rather than 6. Students must be registered full-time and pay full-time fees for four years and may be registered as part-time thereafter.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

There are no new/additional financial resources required to implement the flex-time PhD option.

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 Adult Education and Counselling Psychology for a Flexible-time Ph.D. option within the Adult Education and Community Development Program, effective September 2005.

The motion and supporting documentation are attached. Division II Executive Committee approved the proposal at its meeting of October 6, 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 L. Stermac
 V. Makarovska S. Pfeiffer L. Yee S. Zaky (attachments)

H:Council/FollowUp/2004-2005/Oct 26/Adult Ed and Counselling Psych Flex-time PhD

Motion

School of Graduate Studies Council Tuesday, October 26, 2004

Item 6.

New Options Within Existing Degree Programs

6.1 Adult Education and Community Development , Department of Adult Education and Counselling Psychology, Flexible-time Ph.D.

MOTION (/) THAT SGS Council approve the proposal of the Department of Adult Education and Counselling Psychology for a Flexible-time Ph.D. option within the Adult Education and Community Development Program, effective September 2005.

See attached.

NOTE:

See rationale in the attached letter.

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.

Sept 28, 2004

PROPOSAL TO OFFER THE FLEXIBLE-TIME PH.D. IN THE GRADUATE PROGRAM, ADULT EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, OISE/UT

Adult Education and Community Development (AECD) is one of two graduate programs within the Department of Adult Education and Counselling Psychology. The doctoral students in Adult Education and Community Development are predominantly employed in organizations external to the formal school system. Their roles are diverse, but many have management positions in nonprofits and others are human resource managers in the private sector. Some of these are admitted into the doctorate directly from master's degree studies in AECD. Maturity and practical experience, preferably in areas related to adult education, are characteristics of most AECD doctoral applicants, and are considered as advantageous characteristics. To capitalize fully on that strength, AECD proposes to offer the flexible-time Ph.D. in addition to the full-time Ph.D beginning in September 2005.

The flexible-time Ph.D. was approved by the School of Graduate Studies Council in 1995. The regulations that were approved at that time are attached to this proposal. Adult Education and Community Development does not propose any amendments or exceptions. We propose to offer the flexible-time Ph.D. in accordance with the regulations. Indeed, the regulations explain clearly our fundamental objective:

Such programs will be offered where there is sufficient demand by practicing professionals for design and delivery of Ph.D. programs that, except for short specified periods of time, permit continued employment in areas related to the fields of research. In these programs, theory and praxis would uniquely engage and inform each other. (flexible-time Ph.D. Degree Regulations, approved by SGS Council on May 25, 1995.)

This regulation expresses well AECD's rationale for proposing to offer the flexible-time Ph.D. We have many applicants and students for whom the flexible-time Ph.D. would be appropriate. A particular reason for our preference for the flexible-time Ph.D. is that it is a good fit for our mid-career applicants. Even with financial aid, the conventional Ph.D. program is not feasible for prospective students who want to maintain involvement in their careers and professions. We want to accommodate students who are committed to their careers and make it possible for their academic programs and their research to draw on their professional experience.

The Ph.D. is the preferred doctoral degree of most of our students. At present students who want to retain their professions apply for the Ed.D because it is the only part-time option available to them. Should our application for the flexible-time Ph.D. be successful,

we believe that there will still be a small demand for the Ed.D., and for that reason, we still would like to retain that degree.

The addition of a flexible-time PhD Program will have no impact on the full-time PhD Program. The Admission process will be the same for flexible-time PhD applicants as for full-time applicants. The addition of a flexible-time PhD option will not increase the overall quota of doctoral students. We will consider flexible-time and full-time doctoral applications in the same Admissions process and admit the most qualified applicants within the doctoral enrollment quota set by OISE/UT. Flexible-time Phd students will not be eligible under the funding guarantee. Their numbers will remain within the quota for unfunded students set by OISE/UT. The last admission round AECD admitted three unfunded students at the doctoral level. The quota is likely to remain close to this number.

Flexible-time Phd completion stages will be the same as for the full time PhD with an overall time limit for completion of 8 years rather than 6. See sample program of study below. Students must be registered full-time and pay full-time fees for four years and may be registered part-time thereafter. They will be encouraged to attend the required PhD seminar AEC310 in the first term of their Program.

A few applications to transfer from the EdD to the flexible-time PhD are likely in the initial period after the introduction of this program from those who applied to the EdD when it was our only part-time doctoral option. The requests will be considered individually and granted on merit. They will have no impact on our overall doctoral numbers. Should any applications to transfer either way between programs be made in subsequent years they will be considered annually in our regular admissions process and awarded on an individual basis within the doctoral quota allotted by OISE/UT.

REVISED SGS CALENDAR ENTRY:*

Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

The PhD degree program is designed to provide opportunities for advanced study in the theoretical foundations of adult education and in the application of such knowledge to educational practice. AECD offers both a full-time and flexible-time PhD program. Full-time PhD students must complete their degree within six years. They begin as a cohort and are EXPECTED to take AEC3102 (the required doctoral thesis seminar) in the first term of their program. Flexible-time PhD students must complete their degree within eight years. They are ENCOURAGED to take AEC3102 in the first term of their program. Otherwise, degree requirements for both programs are the same. There are: six half courses at least four of which must be from the Adult Education and Community Development Program. Students with little background in the field of Adult Education and Community Development will be required to do a seventh half course providing such background. A minimum of four courses must be at the doctoral/3000 level, including course AEC3102. Students would also normally take non-credit AEC3111 (Academic and Professional Seminar for Adult Educators) and at least one specialized research

methods course. In addition, all students are expected to complete a comprehensive requirement and a thesis.

SAMPLE PROGRAM OF STUDY, AECD FLEXIBLE-TIME PHD:

Course work: generally completed at the beginning of the program -6 graduate half courses for credit at least four from the AECD Program, at least four at the doctoral level including at least one specialized research methods course. AEC3102 (doctoral thesis seminar) is compulsory and students are encouraged to take this at the beginning of their program. Completion of course work may take longer than the one year which is normal for full-time PhD students.

Formation of three person thesis committee: this is normally done during the time the student is taking courses.

Comprehensive Requirement: presentation of major literatures related to the candidate's thesis topic, to be determined by the supervisor in consultation with thesis committee members and the candidate. This requirement may be fulfilled at any time during the program after the thesis committee is formed.

Thesis proposal and ethical review: students are encouraged to begin considering their thesis topic and working on their proposal from the beginning of their program and receive support for this in the required doctoral seminar. Students are expected to complete their proposal within one term of completing all course requirements and to complete their ethical review immediately after their thesis proposal has been accepted by their committee.

Data gathering: may begin as soon as the thesis proposal has been accepted and the ethical review has passed.

Thesis Completion: is required within eight years of beginning the program.

***Previous SGS Calendar Description**

Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

The Ph.D. degree program is designed to provide opportunities for advanced study in the theoretical foundations of adult education and in the application of such knowledge to educational practice. The Ph.D. is a full-time degree program. Incoming students begin as a cohort and take six half-courses, which would include at least a four half-course major from the Adult Education and Community Development program. A minimum of four courses must be at the 3000 level, including AEC 3102H *Doctoral Thesis Course in Adult Education* which is normally taken in the first semester of the program by the entire cohort. Ph.D. students also normally take AEC 3111H *Academic and Professional Seminar for Adult Educators* and at least one specialized methods course. In addition, all Ph.D. students are expected to complete a comprehensive requirement and a thesis.