



TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

SPONSOR: Cheryl Regehr, Vice-Provost, Academic Programs

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DATE: April 5, 2010 for May 11, 2010

AGENDA ITEM: 3

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION: Faculty of Law and School of Graduate Studies: Proposal for a Global Professional Master of Laws (G.P.LL.M).**

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

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

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

The proposed new graduate program in law leading to a Global Professional Master of Laws (G.P.LL.M.) is an innovative legal program, unique in North America. The program examines the impact of globalization on laws, legal institutions, modern societies, markets, and businesses from a broad multi-disciplinary, transnational and comparative legal perspective. It is the first master's level degree in North America that is aimed at addressing these areas of interest and need.

The initial target market for the G.P.LL.M. is practicing lawyers, leaders in government and business, that have substantial experience representing clients and businesses and institutions that are international in scope. As legal practice becomes increasingly transnational, lawyers are frequently called upon to advise businesses, individuals, and governments on matters that transcend national borders. Today's lawyers must operate at a very high level in a global business environment and must possess broad international and transnational perspectives and sophisticated understanding of international legal issues, laws, and legal institutions. Other professionals in government and business have similar needs and face similar demands and challenges. Broad demand for the program is anticipated.

The program's academic requirements and rigour are consistent with the Faculty's existing Master's level graduate law programs. As with the regular J.D. and graduate law programs courses, the G.P.LL.M. will be taught by a combination of full-time faculty, distinguished

adjunct professors, and distinguished visiting professors. All of the seminar courses will be offered in the evenings or on the weekends when the regular J.D. and LL.M. program classes are not held. It will be offered as a full-time one-year degree program involving a total of 24 credit hours that is completed over the course of three consecutive academic sessions. During the first two sessions, students will be expected to obtain 17 credit hours by completing five required seminar courses worth three credits each, plus an additional two-credit intensive seminar course. During the third session, students will be expected to obtain 7 credit hours by completing two additional two-credit intensive seminar courses and one three-credit intensive seminar course.

As is described in the proposal, consultations regarding the G.P.L.L.M. program have taken place. The proposal was approved by the Faculty of Law Council on March 30, 2010, and the School of Graduate Studies Graduate Education Council on April 20, 2010.

**FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:**

The Faculty of Law has committed to provide all the resources needed for this program. The Faculty will continue to offer its LL.M. program. The financial plan has been reviewed by the Planning and Budget Office. This proposal will be presented for concurrence to the Planning and Budget Committee on May 5, 2010.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

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

THAT the proposed G.P.L.L.M. degree program, as described in the attached proposal, be approved with enrolment commencing September, 2011.