



TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

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DATE: April 28, 2011 for May 16, 2011

AGENDA ITEM: 3

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

**University of Toronto Mississauga [UTM] proposal for a new professional Master of Science in Sustainability Management (MScSM).**

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs has the authority to recommend proposals for new degree programs to Academic Board for approval.

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:** none

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

This is a proposal for a twenty month (five-session) full-time professional Master of Science in Sustainability Management that will be offered through the Professional Graduate Program Centre [PGPC] at University of Toronto Mississauga [UTM]. The program responds to a substantial growth in interest in sustainability, socially responsible business practices and employment in so-called “green jobs” and is intended to educate students about managing businesses and organizations in a way that balances environmental, economic and social needs. Research pursued by students will include a range of topics, such as the relationship between specific types of businesses and sustainability, the role of socially conscious investment, various techniques and practices related to reducing carbon use, alternative energy and new ways to implement sustainability practices in small businesses. The program name, Master of Science in Sustainability Management, was chosen to describe the subject matter and intellectual focus of the program.

The proposed MScSM has been brought forward in line with UTM’s commitment to be at the forefront of training students to be environmentally proactive and will build on strengths in environment, management, accounting and economics on

the campus. As a terminal research-based degree, it is designed to prepare students for critical professional positions in a particular niche while maintaining high intellectual standards. The program contains a significant experiential component: every student will spend at least two months in the summer between Year 1 and Year 2 in an internship placement working on a sustainable management project or issue with a business or organizational partner.

The proponents have consulted extensively with the Chairs of Geography, Economics and Management at UTM; with key representatives at the Rotman School of Management, the Centre of Environment, the Faculty of Forestry, and the Department of Geography on the St. George campus; and with the Department of Physical and Environmental Sciences at UTSC. The result has been the involvement of faculty from all three campuses in the program and the inclusion in the program's curriculum of courses offered across a wide range of units.

The program received a favourable external appraisal by Professor Peter G. Brown, Department of Geography, McGill University and Dr. Janaki R.R. Alavalapati, Professor and Head, Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation, Virginia Polytechnic and State University on March 3, 2011. The final proposal was approved by UTM's Academic Affairs Committee, March 30, 2011 and Erindale College Council on April 13, 2011.

**FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:** There are no new/additional financial resources at the University-level required to implement the proposed new program. UTM has committed additional resources to support the program as outlined in the program proposal.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Be it recommended to the Academic Board:

THAT the new professional Master of Science in Sustainability Management (MScSM) be approved effective the academic year 2012-2013.