FOR APPROVAL

TO: Arts & Science Council

SPONSOR: Pamela Klassen, Vice-Dean, Undergraduate & International

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DATE: February 6, 2019 for February 13, 2019

AGENDA ITEM: 2 (a through h)

ITEM OF BUSINESS:
Major Modifications to Undergraduate Programs

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:
Arts & Science Council has delegated authority to approve modifications to existing degree programs that are defined in the University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP) as major modifications, including changes to program content that affect the learning outcomes, but do not meet the threshold for a “new program.”

GOVERNANCE PATH:
1. Arts & Science Undergraduate Curriculum Committees [For recommendation]: Social Sciences, January 30, 2019; Sciences, January 31, 2019; Humanities, February 1, 2019
2. Arts & Science Council [For final approval]: February 13, 2019
3. Committee on Academic Policy & Programs [For information in annual report]: May 8, 2019

HIGHLIGHTS:
The following undergraduate major modifications to programs are proposed:

a. Accounting Specialist Program, Rotman Commerce

Changes to the Rotman Commerce Specialist programs stemmed from the most recent (2015) UTQAP external review, which recommended granting students the opportunity to acquire a broad business education as well as explore the wide range of course and program offerings from the Faculty of Arts and Science. The current programs require students to complete a minimum of 10.0 FCE of RSM courses and 10.0 FCE of non-RSM courses. However, this structure makes it challenging for students to acquire breadth in different subdisciplines in either business or Arts & Science subjects. By relaxing the current 10/10 rule and asking students to complete a minimum of 8.0 FCE of RSM courses and 8.0 FCE of non-RSM courses, it will allow students increased flexibility to further explore their areas of interest and better prepare for the demands of the job market. This new 8/8 rule will apply to all three Specialist programs.

Further changes to the Accounting Specialist program will see students take courses in organizational behaviour, operations management, and strategic management, in addition to already-required courses in finance and marketing, to ensure that students develop sufficient knowledge in each of the business subdisciplines. As a result of low enrolment, the existing Financial Reporting and Control stream within
this Specialist will be closed permanently after all students enrolled in this stream have graduated. This will leave the Accounting Specialist as an undifferentiated Specialist that follows the curriculum of the existing Public Accounting stream. A Focus in Financial Statement Analysis within the existing Management Specialist is being planned to serve students who decide to neither continue in the Financial Reporting and Control stream nor pursue the undifferentiated Accounting Specialist.

b. Finance and Economics Specialist Program, Rotman Commerce

Aside from the new 8/8 rule, changes to the Finance and Economics Specialist will see the elimination of the 0.5 FCE upper-level international business requirement but an increase in the upper-level finance requirement from 1.0 FCE to 2.0 FCE to further strengthen students’ expertise in finance. Similar to the Accounting Specialist, students will be required to take courses in organizational behaviour, operations management, and strategic management, in addition to already-required courses in accounting and marketing, to ensure adequate exposure to the different business subdisciplines.

c. Management Specialist Program, Rotman Commerce

In addition to the new 8/8 rule, changes to the Management Specialist will see the creation of an upper-level requirement (of 2.5 FCE of courses) that resembles what is currently required of the academic unit’s four Focuses. The changes are meant to encourage students to enrol in at least one Focus to acquire depth in one or more business subdisciplines.

d. Sexual Diversity Studies Specialist Program, Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies

Modifications to the Sexual Diversity Studies programs were made in response to the 2017 external review of the Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies. The changes reflect the Centre’s desire to provide clearer pathways for students with respect to course selection, as well as the shift in the field of sexual diversity studies towards subjects/topics around intersectionality, transnationalism, and queer theory. The introduction of three thematic clusters (Politics & Policy, Formations & Practices, and Media & Aesthetics) highlights the cross-disciplinary nature of the program and provides students the opportunity to explore the different areas of sexual diversity studies. Queer Indigenous Politics and Cultures (SDS385H1) and Queer Migrations and Refugee Politics (SDS465H1) are two of the courses previously offered as special topics that are being added as core options for upper-year students.

Students enrolled in the Specialist program will be required to take an Advanced Research Seminar course, where they will go through the process of researching and drafting a long-form research paper in preparation for grad school, to which many of the Centre’s Specialist students apply.

e. Sexual Diversity Studies Major Program, Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies

The Sexual Diversity Studies Major will have a similar structure as the Sexual Diversity Studies Specialist in that students will complete foundational courses, courses from three thematic clusters, as well as a capstone requirement at the 400-level. Through advanced research seminars, independent
studies, and community-engaged learning courses, students will have an opportunity to integrate their previous course work, knowledge and skills in a variety of scenarios aimed to prepare them for future careers and further studies.

f. Statistics Specialist Program, Department of Statistical Sciences

Modifications to the Major and Specialist programs offered by the Department of Statistical Sciences originated from a two-year curriculum renewal exercise that saw the unit revise its program learning outcomes. With the increasing importance of data science and big data, the knowledge and skills required of statisticians and data experts are evolving as well. As such, the program changes for both Specialists and the Major include a greater focus on predictive modelling and data from a wide variety of sources. This has been accomplished through the introduction of new courses and changes to the higher year course requirements. Last year, the department hired an internship coordinator with the goal of developing opportunities and resources to support students looking to take on an internship experience. The learning outcomes for all three programs have been revised to incorporate these changes.

To better differentiate between the two existing Specialist programs, the Statistics Specialist is being renamed to the Specialist in Statistical Science: Theory and Methods. This program focuses more on probability and the theory of statistical inference as they relate to statistical data analysis. Students will gain high-impact integrative inquiry-based experience by taking a fourth-year capstone course or pursuing an internship opportunity being coordinated by the department.

g. Applied Statistics Specialist Program, Department of Statistical Sciences

The major modifications proposed to the Applied Statistics Specialist include a redefinition of the learning outcomes and changes to higher year requirements as above, as well as minor modifications to the program, which include a change in program name, and the introduction of a new disciplinary focus. The program will be renamed to be the Specialist in Statistical Science: Methods and Practice. This program is different from the Specialist in Statistical Science: Theory and Methods in that it focuses more on collaborative statistical practice and getting students to develop an understanding of statistical science from the perspective of a researcher in another discipline. Students currently enrolled in this program must complete at least one of the 16 existing disciplinary focuses available.

h. Statistics Major Program, Department of Statistical Sciences

The major modifications proposed to the Statistics Major include a redefinition of the learning outcomes and changes to higher year requirements as above, as well as a minor modification to introduce a program enrolment restriction. Enrolment in programs offered by the Department of Statistical Sciences has skyrocketed over the past five years. To better manage the massive increase in demand for courses and programs in statistics, the Statistics Major will become a limited enrolment program effective the 2020 enrolment period, with admission to be based not only on completing specific first-year courses but on obtaining a minimum average grade across those courses.
MOTIONS:

a. Accounting Specialist Program, Rotman Commerce

**Be It Resolved**
THAT the proposed changes to the Accounting Specialist program, as described in the attached proposal, be approved effective March 1, 2019.

b. Finance and Economics Specialist Program, Rotman Commerce

**Be It Resolved**
THAT the proposed changes to the Finance and Economics Specialist program, as described in the attached proposal, be approved effective March 1, 2019.

c. Management Specialist Program, Rotman Commerce

**Be It Resolved**
THAT the proposed changes to the Management Specialist program, as described in the attached proposal, be approved effective March 1, 2019.

d. Sexual Diversity Studies Specialist Program, Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies

**Be It Resolved**
THAT the proposed changes to the Sexual Diversity Studies Specialist program, as described in the attached proposal, be approved effective March 1, 2019.

e. Sexual Diversity Studies Major Program, Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies

**Be It Resolved**
THAT the proposed changes to the Sexual Diversity Studies Major program, as described in the attached proposal, be approved effective March 1, 2019.

f. Statistics Specialist Program, Department of Statistical Sciences

**Be It Resolved**
THAT the proposed changes to the Statistics Specialist program, as described in the attached proposal, be approved effective March 1, 2020.
g. Applied Statistics Specialist Program, Department of Statistical Sciences

**Be It Resolved**
THAT the proposed changes to the Applied Statistics Specialist program, as described in the attached proposal, be approved effective March 1, 2020.

h. Statistics Major Program, Department of Statistical Sciences

**Be It Resolved**
THAT the proposed changes to the Statistics Major program, as described in the attached proposal, be approved effective March 1, 2020.