FOR RECOMMENDATION

TO: Arts & Science Council

SPONSOR: Dwayne Benjamin, Vice-Dean, Graduate Education

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DATE: February 6, 2019 for February 13, 2019

AGENDA ITEM: 4

ITEM OF BUSINESS:
Academic Unit Name Changes, Department of the History of Art (St. George) and the Tri-Campus Graduate Department of Art

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:
Name changes of academic units are recommended from Council to the Academic Board for approval that is confirmed by the Executive Committee (5.2.7).

GOVERNANCE PATH:
1. Graduate Curriculum Committee – February 1, 2019 (for approval)
2. Arts & Science Council – February 13, 2019 (for recommendation)
3. Academic Board – March 14, 2019 (for approval)
4. Executive Committee – March 26, 2019 (for confirmation)

HIGHLIGHTS:
The Department of the History of Art and Graduate Department of Art propose to change their names to the Department of Art History and the Graduate Department of Art History, respectively.

At the graduate level, the name change is intended to better reflect the research and teaching undertaken within the unit. The graduate department’s current name, ‘Art’ is a holdover from when the unit included both art historians and art practitioners. However, faculty in these areas had their appointments transferred to the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design in 2014. In 2015 the Department of Art changed its name to the Department of the History of Art. At that time there was support for the change to the name of the department on the St. George campus, but student and faculty opinions regarding the name of the tri-campus graduate department varied, reflecting the nature of tri-campus graduate activities. As a result it was agreed that no changes would be made to the name of the tri-campus Graduate Department of Art at this time. Now, four years later, and with the passage of time, it has become quite apparent that ‘Art’ does produce some
confusion, with students and colleagues alike believing it signifies a studio component in the unit. The change ‘Art History’ is proposed as a more accurate description of the department’s research and teaching activities, and to avoid such misunderstandings.

One reason for choosing Art History over History of Art is that the Department of Visual Studies (DVS) at UTM has a program in ‘Art History’; and the Department of Arts, Culture and Media (ACM) at UTSC has a program in ‘Art History and Visual Culture’. These are the departments, along with UTSG, from which the Graduate Department of Art’s Graduate Faculty are drawn. Use of the term ‘Art History’ for the graduate department is thus more in keeping with existing undergraduate programs.

With the above in mind, a renaming of the undergraduate department at UTSG from “History of Art” to “Art History” is also proposed, to align the UTSG department name with that of the Graduate Department, and with existing undergraduate programs at UTM and UTSC.

Through separate minor modification proposals, the names of the department’s degree programs (PhD, MA, Specialist, Major, Minor) will change from “History of Art” to “Art History”, effective September 1, 2019.

Faculty members in the Department of the History of Art and the Graduate Department of Art have been extensively consulted about the proposed name changes, as have graduate and undergraduate students. Tri-campus consultation has taken place with the Chairs of the Department of Visual Studies at UTM and the Department of Arts, Culture and Media at UTSC, and through the Tri-Campus Deans Committee. The Dean of the Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design (DFLAD) has also been consulted.

MOTIONS:

Be It Recommended
THAT the change in name from the Department of the History of Art to the Department of Art History be approved effective July 1, 2019, pending approval of University governance.

Be It Recommended
THAT the change in name from the Graduate Department of Art to the Graduate Department of Art History be approved effective July 1, 2019, pending approval of University governance.