FOR APPROVAL

TO: Arts & Science Council

SPONSOR: Dwayne Benjamin, Vice-Dean, Graduate Education

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DATE: March 13, 2019 for March 20, 2019

AGENDA ITEM: 4

ITEM OF BUSINESS:
Major Modification – Proposed Change to the Program Length of the Master of Science in Chemistry

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:
The 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, such as changing the length of a degree program.

GOVERNANCE PATH:
1. Graduate Curriculum Committee – March 7, 2019 (for approval)
2. Arts & Science Council – March 20, 2019 (final approval)
3. Office of the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs (for information), in turn reported to the Committee on Academic Policy & Programs (for information) – May 8, 2019

The Office of the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs will also report this major modification to the Ontario Universities Council on Quality Assurance in the summer of 2019.

HIGHLIGHTS:
The Department of Chemistry proposes to amend the minimum program length of the Master’s program from six sessions to three sessions, to more accurately reflect the length of time that it takes students to complete the program.

While the official program length of the MSc as reflected in the SGS calendar is 6 sessions full-time, many students complete the program requirements within 12 months. This aligns with the length of time that they are in the funded cohort, and the Chemistry department’s efforts to responsibly and efficiently provide a valued thesis degree. Moreover, the program is designed to be completed in 3 sessions (2 half-courses, a research thesis, seminars and division-specific events) and the program learning outcomes reflect that, so this change will align program design and systems. In recognition
of the varied and unpredictable timelines of research in chemistry, the reduced minimum program length will not alter the academic and financial support (e.g. research assistantships) that the department offers to students whose M.Sc. studies continue beyond a third session.

This proposal has been developed in consultation with the Office of the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs.

MOTION:

a) THAT the change to the program length of the Master of Science in Chemistry, described in the attached proposal dated March 5, 2019, be approved effective for the academic year 2019-20.