FOR APPROVAL

TO: Arts & Science Council

SPONSOR: Dwayne Benjamin, Vice-Dean, Graduate Education

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DATE: December 5, 2018 for December 12, 2018

AGENDA ITEM: 3

ITEM OF BUSINESS:
Major Modification – Approval of a Thesis Option within the Master of Arts in Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies, and Changes to Program Requirements for the Master of Arts Coursework Option

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 new program requirement options within an existing graduate program.

GOVERNANCE PATH:
1. Graduate Curriculum Committee – November 29, 2018 (for approval)
2. Arts & Science Council – December 12, 2018 (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 Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies is proposing the introduction of a new, thesis-based option in their Master of Arts program, along with the creation of three new required courses to be taken by students in the thesis option and the existing coursework option. For students in the coursework option, this entails a change to program requirements. These changes are part
of a renewal of the Centre’s graduate curriculum, informed by the Centre’s recent self-study and external review.

The introduction of the thesis option is prompted by the Centre’s mission of demonstrating an international standard of research and education in the fields of drama, theatre and performance studies. The thesis option will offer rigorous training in academic research and composition, and will appeal to students who intend to pursue further graduate study. Students in the thesis option will take a two-semester course, meeting regularly to develop their projects under the guidance of the course instructor. Student theses will be evaluated by three graduate faculty members.

The three new required courses (0.5 FCE each), described in full in the proposal, will be taken by students in the thesis and coursework options. These courses will offer focused study of the theoretical, methodological, historical and practical aspects of the overlapping fields of drama, theatre and performance studies, significantly enhancing student’s systematic understanding of these fields. Together, these courses replace an existing required course, DRA 5000Y: MA Project (1.0 FCE), and will provide students with more exposure time to different aspects of drama, theatre and performance studies, as well as a broader range of faculty expertise.

Students in the both the thesis option and the coursework option will complete 4.0 FCEs, including the required courses; for students in the thesis option, 1.0 FCE will comprise the thesis, while students in the coursework option will take an additional elective.

These curriculum changes were developed in consultation with the Centre’s faculty and students, facilitated by a task force consisting of the Director, Associate Director, faculty, students and the Graduate Administrator. The feedback received during this process was highly positive. The Centre has sufficient faculty resources to meet the supervisory and teaching capacity necessitated by the thesis option and the introduction of three required courses.

This proposal has been developed by the Centre for Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies, in consultation with the Office of the Dean, Faculty of Arts & Science, and the Office of the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs.

**MOTION:**

Be it Resolved:

a) THAT the proposed changes to the Master of Arts in Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies as described in the attached proposal dated November 27, 2018, be approved effective for the academic year 2019-20.