



FOR APPROVAL AND RECOMMENDATION

TO: Arts & Science Council

SPONSOR: Mary Pugh, Acting Vice-Dean, Undergraduate & International

CONTACT INFO: vicedeanundergrad.artsci@utoronto.ca

DATE: December 6, 2017 for December 13, 2017

AGENDA ITEM: 6

ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Closure of the Major Program in Health Care Ethics, Human Biology Program

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Section IV-7 of Arts & Science Council's Constitution indicates "Council shall consider the content, quality, and requirements of the academic programs and courses of study that lead to degrees, diplomas, certificates, credit and non-credit courses over which the Faculty has authority; **it shall consider proposals for the closure of any such programs or courses of study** [emphasis added]; and it shall monitor the quality and standards of the programs and courses of study."

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. **Arts & Science Council [For approval and recommendation] – December 13, 2017**
2. Committee on Academic Policy and Programs [For approval] – January 11, 2018

HIGHLIGHTS:

In 2013-14 the Human Biology Program underwent a review and a key recommendation was to reassess the majors and specialists and consider reducing programs and overlap between them. Health Care Ethics was reviewed and it represented less than 1% of the total program enrolment. At that time, the problems the program faced resulted in admissions being suspended.

This program was originally conceived to meet increased interest in bioethics within academia, but the demand did not emerge, and, for example, opportunities for priority access to a key course in philosophy on Ethics & Mental Health was never exploited by students. Faced with this, and with consultation with the stakeholders (Philosophy, University College and Health Studies) confirming the lack of impact of this program, it was decided to move to formally close the program once the current students had graduated. Consultation on this closure extended also to include the Dean's Office of the Faculty, other life science programs, the School of Environment, and the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, in addition to the stakeholders previously listed.

There was as of this past September only one student still active in the program – and that student had, in fact, finished the major, and was only needed to finish one other program to graduate. There is no sense that lapsed students will return to want to finish; if some do return, they will be accommodated on a case-by-case basis to ensure they can find the courses necessary to complete the program. With these in mind, the proposed effective date for full closure will be June 30, 2018.

MOTION:

THAT the closure of the Major Program in Health Care Ethics, as described in the attached proposal, be approved, with full effect on June 30, 2018.