



FOR APPROVAL

TO: Arts & Science Council

SPONSOR: Dwayne Benjamin, Vice-Dean, Graduate Education

CONTACT INFO: vicedeangraduate.artsci@utoronto.ca

DATE: December 6, 2017 for December 13, 2017

AGENDA ITEM: 7

ITEM OF BUSINESS:

New Concentration in Transportation Planning and Infrastructure within the Master of Science in Planning (MScPl), Geography and Planning

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Arts & Council's Constitution (IV-7) confirms that 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 option within an existing graduate program.

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. Graduate Curriculum Committee [For approval and recommendation] – November 27, 2017
2. **Arts & Science Council [For approval] – December 13, 2017**
3. Office of the Vice-Provost [For information] in turn reported to the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs [For information] – May 10, 2017

HIGHLIGHTS:

The Department of Geography & Planning is proposing a new concentration, Transportation Planning and Infrastructure, to be part of the current Master of Science in Planning (MScPl), effective September 1, 2018. This proposal also includes the conversion of the program's existing five fields of study to concentrations. This is a nomenclature change; fields and concentrations are synonymous.

Transportation and infrastructure planning are integral to urban planning, and the creation of this concentration will catalyze the formation of a more explicit, purposeful and energetic hub of research and practice oriented around transportation planning and infrastructure issues. The concentration builds on the department's existing strengths in this area; there is a critical mass of existing faculty who work in the area of transportation analysis and planning, urban form, spatial analysis and GIS/Spatial Science. The concentration also responds to student demand, as reflected in

rising enrolments for courses in this topic area, as well as the number of students who focus their final paper on transportation and infrastructure related topics. It is anticipated that there will be a steady state annual intake of between three and six MScPl students into the concentration (this represents a reallocation of students into the new concentration, rather than an increase in enrolment).

Transportation planning is a generally recognized sub-discipline within planning, and offering this concentration will better position students for employment in this segment of the planning profession, emphasizing to industry and government employers that graduates of the U of T MScPl program have the necessary blend of broad conceptual and specialized technical training to excel in this area.

This proposal has been developed in consultation between the Department of Geography and Planning and the Office of the Dean, Faculty of Arts & Science, as well as the Office of the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs. The Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering (Department of Civil Engineering) has also been consulted. The proposed concentration will be offered through the existing faculty complement.

MOTION:

- a) THAT the proposed new concentration in Transportation Planning and Infrastructure within the Master of Science in Planning offered by the Department of Geography and Planning, as described in the attached proposal, be approved effective the 2018-19 academic year.
- b) THAT the proposed conversion of the five existing fields of study within the Masters of Science in Planning to concentrations, as described in the attached proposal, be approved effective the 2018-19 academic year.