FOR APPROVAL/INFORMATION

TO: Arts & Science Council

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

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DATE: February 7, for February 14, 2018

AGENDA ITEM: 4

ITEM OF BUSINESS:
Major Modifications to Undergraduate Programs

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:
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, including significant restructuring, the creation of streams within an existing program, the establishment of a Major where there is an existing Specialist or Major, and the creation of a freestanding Minor.

GOVERNANCE PATH:
1. Arts & Science Curriculum Committees [For Recommendation]: Humanities, January 30, 2018; Sciences, February 2, 2018.
2. Arts & Science Council [For final approval], February 14, 2018.
3. Committee on Academic Policy & Programs [For information in annual report]

HIGHLIGHTS:
The following undergraduate major modifications to programs are proposed:

a) Actuarial Science Specialist Program, Department of Statistical Sciences

Changes to the Actuarial Sciences Specialist program began with the recent self-study in the Department of Statistical Sciences, which identified the a primary goal of updating Actuarial Science programs to respond to changing trends in actuarial profession, which requires actuarial hires to have more sophisticated knowledge in statistics and data science. These new requirements are also reflected in the new professional curriculum of the professional associations (i.e. Society of Actuaries and Casualty Actuarial Society), which will be in effect from July 2018. To accomplish these changes for the Specialist, a first-year course in data science concepts has been introduced as a mandatory requirement, and higher-level course requirements have been modified from a set of 5.5 FCE required courses to a set of
3.5 FCE in fundamental topics in actuarial science and 2.0 FCE in elective course options in advanced theory and practice-oriented courses. These changes are expected to create a stronger foundational path for students through modern concepts in statistics and data science, and relax previous rigidity in upper years by allowing students options that suit their academic and professional goals.

b) Actuarial Science Major Program, Department of Statistical Sciences

As with the changes to the Specialist, the proposed changes for the Actuarial Science Major respond to changing needs of the actuarial science profession, to prepare students for the “age of big data” and develop foundational learning outcomes in statistics and data sciences concepts. A first-year course in data sciences concepts is now mandatory, as well as an introductory course in computer science, and a mandatory set of courses in higher years rather than an elective list. Since the scope of the Major program is more limited than the Specialist, the priority for this program is to best represent the core concepts of Actuarial science. Required courses in introductory accounting and economics have been removed for the Major, however as these courses serve students in preparation for future accreditation, it is expected that enrolment in these courses will not be severely affected.

c) Christianity and Culture Major Program, St. Michael’s college

Modifications to the Christianity and Culture Major consist of a restructuring of course offerings to reduce previous duplication and simplify paths through the program for students. These changes have been developed over the last few years following an external review and intensive internal consultation process. In the proposed program, first-year course options have been removed, with a sole second-year course as the “gateway” into the program. Four clusters of courses, in Christianity and the Arts, Christian Community, Christianity and Education, and Christianty in Science, have been introduced at the second-year level in order to better position students for higher-year requirements. It is expected that these changes will improve the student experience through the program by reducing duplication in second year courses and creating more flexibility in higher year courses.

d) Digital Humanities Minor, Woodsworth College

Digital humanities is an emerging interdisciplinary field which integrates traditional learning in the humanities with computing and data sciences concepts, exploring the study of human culture with creation, analysis and manipulation of digital data with a humanist perspective. This new freestanding Minor establishes a digital humanities curriculum at the University of Toronto through 1.0 FCE of introductory courses at the 200-level, 2.0 FCE at the 200- and 300-level selected from digital humanities topics or cross-listed courses within Arts & Science units, and 1.0 FCE in capstone courses intended to provide exposure to research and integrative thinking. This new Minor will complement students’ experiences in a range of
existing Majors and Minors by offering a perspective with which to analyze their “home” disciplines, and is expected to draw an audience from students across the humanities, social sciences and sciences sectors.

e) English Specialist Program, Department of English

Following a two-year curriculum review, the Department of English proposes a restructuring of its Specialist and Major programs. Previously, the structure of these programs was highly flexible, with requirements distributed between five groups: Theory, Language, Methods; Canadian and Indigenous North American Literatures; American and Transnational Literatures; British Literatures to the 19th Century; and Literature since the 18th Century. In the proposed Specialist program, 2.0 FCE of required courses at the 200-level have been introduced, to ensure that students have a foundation in the major national-historical fields of literature in English (British literature before 1700, British literature after 1700, Canadian literature, and American literature). Remaining requirements have been distributed among three restructured groups: Indigenous, Postcolonial, and Transnational Literatures; Pre-1800 British Literature; and Theory, Language and Critical Methods.

These changes follow extensive consultation with all faculty within the department, as well as students, who were strongly supportive of elective freedom and the addition of 200-level requirements which introduce students to the program. Courses have also been restructured to convert almost all 200-level offerings to half (H) courses, and to align all Topics course offerings with the new course groups. These requirements are managed within 10 FCE to complete the Specialist, where students will now have 4.5 FCE of elective freedom compared with 2.0 FCE in the previous program.

f) English Major Program, Department of English

The proposed changes to the English Major follow the same plan as for the Specialist, with requirements restructured within the same set of course group categories, including the same 2.0 FCE of required courses. In the Major program, students will have 2.5 FCE of elective freedom compared with 1.0 FCE in the previous program.

g) French Language Learning Major Program, Department of French

Proposed changes to the French Language Learning Major aim to create a more refined program which focuses solely on French language learning, reducing the emphasis on linguistic study and eliminating the secondary focus on teaching of the French language. Additionally, the changes reduce the total number of FCE from 8.0 to 7.0, with the expectation of making this program more accessible to students. These changes respond to a growing need to mediate a gap in students’ French language acquisition over the course of their program, and especially to develop language skills required for future
professionalization. These goals have been met through the restructuring of second- and third-year course offerings to emphasize core French skills and focus on vocabulary, grammar, history and origins of the French language, francophone culture, and language acquisition. These changes are expected to strength students’ depth of knowledge in French language, and optimize teaching resources in higher year courses.

h) Slavic Languages and Cultures Specialist Program, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

Significant restructuring is proposed for Specialist, Major and Minor programs in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, as part of curriculum renewal within the department, with the goal of reducing boundaries for students and faculty, encouraging interdisciplinarity, and harmonize previously distinct program areas into a coherent and uniform program structure. Programs in Slavic Languages and Literatures are based within a particular language area, which forms the basis of a students’ learning for their program. However, this has led to challenging boundaries where students do not have the opportunity to meet and learn with students outside their language area, and where faculty are restricted to teach within their language area only, leading to imbalances within the unit and creating obstacles to better collaboration. The proposed changes aim to reduce these obstacles and introduce opportunities for students and faculty to contribute to a modified Slavic Languages and Cultures curriculum with programs aligned across five language areas (Russian, Ukrainian, Polish, Czech and Slovak, and South Slavic).

The proposed changes at the Specialist level propose to merge the two existing programs, the Russian Language and Literature Specialist and the Ukrainian Language and Literature Specialist, into a single Specialist. The new Slavic Languages and Cultures Specialist is a comparative program in which students select two of the five language areas, and complete 4.0 FCE of language course work, and 5.0 FCE in literature and cultural history courses. Additionally, all students must complete 1.0 FCE of introductory core courses open to all Specialists, Majors and Minors. This revised single Specialist will allow students to develop a truly transnational and comparative study of Slavic Languages and Cultures which reflects the full expertise of the Department. Students may opt to substitute up to 1.0 FCE from the group of interdisciplinary courses available to students in any language area.

i) Slavic Languages and Cultures Major Programs, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

Proposed changes to the Major programs reduce the current six Major programs (Russian Language and Literature Major, South Slavic Studies Major, Czech and Slovak Studies Major, Ukrainian Language and Literature Major, Polish Studies Major, Polish Language and Literature Major), to one Major program with five Streams (Czech and Slovak; Russian; Polish; South Slavic; Ukrainian). Each language-area Stream will have the same structure, in
which students will complete 1.0 FCE of required core curriculum, and choose a language-
area Stream. Each stream offers a balance of 2.0 FCE of language courses, and 3.0 FCE from
literature and cultural history courses. Students may opt to substitute up to 0.5 FCE from the
group of interdisciplinary courses available to students in any language area. This Stream
structure is expected to provide a clear path for students in completing the Major, bringing
balance to language, literature, and cultural history requirements required of all students, and
promote cross-cultural exploration through the core introductory and optional
interdisciplinary courses. Alongside these changes, Minor programs have been restructured
and modified across the same five language areas, with a similar structure balancing a
required core course, language courses, and literature and cultural history courses.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS:

a. Actuarial Science Specialist Program, Department of Statistical Sciences

   Be It Resolved

   THAT the proposed changes to the Actuarial Science Specialist program, as
described in the attached proposal, be approved effective for the academic year 2018-19.

b. Actuarial Science Major Program, Department of Statistical Sciences

   Be It Resolved

   THAT the proposed changes to the Actuarial Science Major program, as described in
the attached proposal, be approved effective for the academic year 2018-19.

c. Christianity and Culture Major Program, St. Michael’s College

   Be It Resolved

   THAT the proposed changes to the Christianity and Culture Major Program, as
described in the attached proposal, be approved effective for the academic year 2018-19.

d. Digital Humanities Minor (New Freestanding Minor Program), Woodsworth College

   Be It Resolved

   THAT the proposed new freestanding Minor Program in Digital Humanities, as
described in the attached proposal, be approved effective for the academic year 2018-19.

e. English Specialist Program, Department of English

**Be It Resolved**

THAT the proposed changes to the English Specialist Program, as described in the attached proposal, be approved effective for the academic year 2018-19.

f. English Major Program, Department of English

**Be It Resolved**

THAT the proposed changes to the English Major Program, as described in the attached proposal, be approved effective for the academic year 2018-19.

g. French Language Learning Major, Department of French

**Be It Resolved**

THAT the proposed changes to the French Language Learning Major Program, as described in the attached proposal, be approved effective for the academic year 2018-19.

h. Slavic Languages and Literatures Specialist Programs (Russian Language and Literature, Ukrainian Language and Literature Specialist), Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

**Be It Resolved**

THAT the proposed changes to the Specialist Programs of the Slavic Languages and Literatures, as described in the attached proposal, be approved effective for the academic year 2018-19.

i. Slavic Languages and Literatures Major Programs (Czech and Slovak Studies, Polish Studies, Polish Language and Literature, Russian Language and Literature, Ukrainian Language and Literature, South Slavic Studies), Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

**Be It Resolved**

THAT the proposed changes to the Major Programs of the Slavic Languages and Literatures, as described in the attached proposal, be approved effective for the academic year 2018-19.