FOR FINAL APPROVAL

TO: Arts & Science Council

SPONSOR: Dwayne Benjamin, Vice-Dean, Graduate Education

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DATE: April 11, 2018 for April 18, 2018

AGENDA ITEM: 6 (a)

ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Approval of a new Doctoral Collaborative Specialization: Psychology and Engineering (Major Modification)

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, such as the creation of a collaborative specialization.

GOVERNANCE PATH:

1. Graduate Curriculum Committee – March 8, 2018 (for approval)
2. Arts & Science Council – April 18, 2018 (final approval)
3. Committee on Academic Policy & Programs – May 10, 2018 (reported for information by the Office of the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs)

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 2018.

HIGHLIGHTS:

This proposal is to add a doctoral level to the existing graduate Collaborative Specialization in Psychology and Engineering (PsychEng CS), drawing on the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering in the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering, and the Department of Psychology in the Faculty of Arts & Science. The specialization would be led by Engineering.

In April 2017, Arts & Science Council approved the creation of a Master’s level Collaborative Specialization in Psychology and Engineering, with an effective date of September 2017. In its pilot year, the PsychEng CS has enrolled the expected number of graduate students from MIE (5), but
fewer than expected students from Psychology (1-2; expected: 5). Speaking with graduate students in the Department of Psychology revealed that few are able to fulfill more than the base requirements of coursework, a thesis and often, required teaching assistantships, all within a single-year intensive MA program. In contrast, PhD students in Psychology undertake an “outside” project, which presents an opportunity towards research that incorporates engineering.

The doctoral-level collaborative specialization will provide students with access to multidisciplinary learning experiences relating to the intersection of psychology and engineering. The principal benefit to students will be an improved capacity to pursue, understand, discuss, critique, and apply research at this intersection. Students will primarily achieve this capacity through the independent pursuit of a PsychEng-related thesis supported by mentoring from an expert supervisor. This learning will be further supported by the completion of related courses, and immersion in a learning community.

Core faculty members contribute to the collaborative specialization through teaching elective courses, participating in the delivery of seminars, or supervising students. The specialization will have a Director and a Collaborative Specialization Committee to manage admissions and to ensure adequate supervision of candidates. This is not expected to add significantly to any faculty member’s supervisory load.

**MOTION:**

THAT the proposed new collaborative Doctoral Collaborative Specialization in Psychology and Engineering, as described in the attached proposal, be approved with an anticipated start date of September 2018.