FOR APPROVAL

TO: Faculty of Arts and Science Council

SPONSOR: Sandy Welsh, Vice-Dean, Graduate Education and Program Reviews

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DATE: March 2, 2015 for March 9, 2015

AGENDA ITEM: 4

ITEM OF BUSINESS:

Major modifications – New Fields within an Existing Graduate Program – M.A./Ph.D. in History

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:
The Arts & 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:
Graduate Curriculum Committee – February 12, 2015
Arts & Science Council – March 9, 2015 – final approval
Reported for information to the appropriate body of Governing Council

HIGHLIGHTS:
The proposed revision of the existing fields of study within the M.A./Ph.D. in the Department of History is meant to better align the research of current faculty members with the interests of incoming students. The Department currently has twelve approved OCGS fields: American History; Asian History; British History; Canadian History; East European History; European History; International Relations; Latin American History; History of Medicine; Medieval History; Russian History; Women’s History. The fields have remained the same for the last thirty years, even though the Department’s complement has changed and ability to offer supervision in one of these fields was not possible.

The Department has reviewed their current structure and would like to propose a revised configuration of their fields which will better reflect the current disciplines taught by faculty. The new structure will see the closure of four fields and the introduction of fields that will fit into two main field structures: 1. Time/Geography and 2. Thematic. Students entering a graduate program will now select one field of interest from the Time/Geography category, which is broad based and one from the thematic fields which is a narrow field of study. This restructuring will allow for a better balance between the strengths of the faculty complement and the interest of the students.

The attached proposal outlines the various field changes which are meant to address both faculty and student demands.
RECOMMENDATION:
The Arts & Science Council approve:

THAT the proposed new fields within the M.A. / Ph.D. in History, as described in the attached proposal dated January 15, 2015., be approved effective for the academic year 2015-16.