FOR FINAL APPROVAL

TO: Arts & Science Council

SPONSOR: Adrienne Hood, Acting Associate Dean, Undergraduate

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DATE: January 23, 2015 for February 2, 2015

AGENDA ITEM: 4

ITEM OF BUSINESS: Undergraduate programs – major modifications

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 as the creation of streams within an existing program and the establishment of a Major where there is an existing Specialist or Major.

GOVERNANCE PATH:
3. Committee on Academic Policy and Programs [For information as part of an annual report]

HIGHLIGHTS:
Four undergraduate program major modifications are proposed:

1) Caribbean Studies Program – Curriculum Renewal of Specialist/Major programs

The Caribbean Studies program underwent a curriculum renewal of its Specialist and Major programs to better reflect the needs of its students. The program has undergone changes since it was established 20 years ago which have allowed it to provide additional courses and reflect a more specialized knowledge through the development of teaching capabilities of its program instructors. As part of the curriculum renewal, the program requirements have been changed, for both the Specialist and Major, to include a newly created introductory first year course and to reconfigure the second year offerings. In keeping with the suggestions made in the 2012 External Review, the aim of the program modification is to increase the coherency and diversity of course offerings

2) School of Public Policy & Governance – Public Policy Major
The School of Public Policy & Governance is proposing changing program requirements for the major. As part of these changes, the current Math prerequisite will be removed as consultations with faculty and students revealed that the MAT prerequisite was a barrier for otherwise qualified students to enter into the program. Thus, the program will become more accessible to highly qualified students who don’t have formal math training. A new course PPG 200: Microeconomic Analysis for Public Policy has been created and will be an option for second year and will provide students with training in economics and policy analysis and will not require a Math pre-requisite.

3) Department of Earth Sciences – Major in Earth and Environmental Systems

The proposal to change the existing Environmental Geosciences major to Earth and Environmental Systems major is designed to provide students with more flexibility by introducing a greater range of courses reflecting the expertise of the Earth Sciences faculty. Currently, the Department of Earth Sciences offers a Specialist and Major in Environmental Geosciences and proposed renaming the Major to Earth and Environmental Systems. The curricular requirements for the new Major will remain a subset of those of the existing Specialist. The differences in course requirements and program learning outcomes between the existing Specialist, and the proposed related Major reflect the differences between what can be achieved in a Major as opposed to what can be achieved in a Specialist. The Major program will provide students with an interdisciplinary perspective which is needed in today’s industry as seen through the mounting environmental challenges posed by climate change, waste management, resource exploration and depletion.

4) Human Biology Program

The Human Biology Program is proposing changes to seven of its programs:

A) General & Applied Genetics Specialist / Major
B) Health and Disease Specialist / Major
C) Neuroscience Specialist / Major
D) Human Biology Major

The proposed changes to the programs have resulted as part of the recent Human Biology Program self-study and external review, in which the need to enhance the overall quality of the Human Biology programs was identified. As part of these processes, a re-evaluation of the courses was undertaken along with a proposed streamlining of the courses offered in order to provide students with greater program flexibility and clarity for their chosen path of study.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS:

THAT the proposed changes to program requirements to the Human Biology Programs: General & Applied Genetics Specialist / Major (previously the Genes Genetics & Biotechnology Specialist / Major); Health and Disease Specialist / Major; Neuroscience Specialist / Major; Human Biology Major, as described in the attached proposal, be approved effective for the academic year 2015-16.

1 Previously the Genes Genetics & Biotechnology Specialist / Major. The program name change, a minor modification, was approved at the January 19, 2015 Curriculum Committee (as part of the major modification proposal).
And

THAT the proposed changes to the Environmental Geoscience Major, as described in the attached proposal, be approved effective for the academic year 2015-16.

And

THAT the proposed curriculum renewal changes to the Caribbean Studies Program, as described in the attached proposal, be approved effective for the academic year 2015-16.

And

THAT the proposed changes to program requirements to School of Public Policy major as described in the attached proposal, be approved effective for the academic year 2015-16.