FOR INFORMATION

TO: Arts & Science Council
SPONSOR: Adrienne Hood, Acting Associate Dean, Undergraduate
CONTACT INFO: assocdean_undergraduate@utoronto.ca
DATE: January 23, 2015 for February 2, 2015
AGENDA ITEM: 5

ITEM OF BUSINESS: Undergraduate programs – minor modifications

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:
Arts & Science Curriculum Committees have delegated authority by Council to approve minor modifications to existing degree programs and courses that are defined in the University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP). Minor modifications include changes to curricula that do not affect the nature or essence of a program or its learning outcomes, including the creation/deletion of focuses related to a Major or Specialist. Minor modifications are reported to Council for information.

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

HIGHLIGHTS:
The summary of approved minor program modifications for the 2015-16 Arts & Science Calendar include the establishment of a newly created Minor within an existing program.

NOTICE OF MOTION: n/a
Summary of approved minor program modifications
for 2015-16 Calendar

Newly created Minor within an existing program

New College – Equity Studies Minor: The major program in Equity Studies came into being in 1998 and enrolment has increased rapidly. Introducing a minor program will provide our growing student population with a choice in the way they pursue Equity Studies. Students in Equity Studies are trained in social justice perspectives relevant to many diverse areas of study. They develop a critical lens that can be used in any discipline. A minor option will provide students focused on other programs the opportunity to incorporate this knowledge into their studies and future careers. It will be an excellent complement to major or specialist programs across the Humanities, Social Science and Life Sciences. A minor option will provide more flexibility for students who are interested in interdisciplinary studies but restricted by the requirements of their major or specialist programs. It will also allow students to join Equity Studies at later stages of their undergraduate degree. As Equity Studies is not a secondary school subject many students do not discover the program until their senior undergraduate years when they have already made significant commitments to other subject POSTs. The availability of a minor program will allow students to enrol in equity studies if they discover the program too late in their undergraduate studies to change their major or specialist. Introducing a minor option will enrich the Equity Studies Program by providing an opportunity for students from a wider range of academic studies to contribute their perspectives to the program.