FOR RECOMMENDATION

TO: Arts & Science Council

SPONSOR: Joshua Barker, Vice-Dean, Graduate Education

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DATE: March 15, 2017 for March 22, 2017

AGENDA ITEM: 5

ITEM OF BUSINESS:
Proposal for the closure of the Master of Urban Design Studies (M.U.D.S.)

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:
The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs approves the closures of undergraduate programs within an existing degree, as defined by the University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP).

GOVERNANCE PATH:
3. Committee on Academic Policy & Programs [For Recommendation]: March 29, 2017
4. Academic Board [For Approval]: April 20, 2017
5. Executive Committee [For Confirmation]: May 4, 2017

HIGHLIGHTS:
This is a proposal to close the Master of Urban Design Studies (M.U.D.S.) degree program. The program commenced about fifteen years ago to provide post-professional training in urban design. Originally, it had a close relationship with the Master of Urban Design, a two-year post-professional program offered by the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design, but this relationship has shifted over time and the two programs are no longer synergistic. Demand for M.U.D.S. program has been low. Originally conceived to have an intake of 10 students per year, the program has had only two or three students enroll in most years. There are currently no registered students in this program. Closing the program will free up faculty resources and allow the department to better serve students by providing more and varied course offerings. The courses required for the M.U.D.S. degree program will continue to be offered as part of the Master of Science in Planning degree program on a rotating basis.

Admissions to the program were administratively suspended in October 2014. There is one lapsed student who is within the time limit under SGS regulations to be reinstated into the program. The program has informed this lapsed student that the program will be closed and that the program will support the student’s
completion of the program until it closes. The closure date is aligned with the last session the lapsed student may register under SGS regulations.

The program has consulted with alumni of the program, the John H. Daniels Faculty of Architecture, Landscape, and Design, the Director of the Urban Studies program at Innis College and the President’s office to ensure all are aware of the proposed closure. There was no significant feedback.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no negative implications to the degree proposal closure. As noted in the proposal, the required courses of the program will no longer be offered every year and this will allow faculty members the flexibility to offer courses for which there will be more demand among students.

NOTION OF MOTIONS:

THAT the proposed closure of the Master of Urban Design Studies (M.U.D.S.) in the Faculty of Arts and Science, to which admissions have already been suspended as described in the attached proposal, dated November 3, 2016, be approved, with an anticipated program closure date of August 31, 2020.