FOR APPROVAL

TO: Arts & Science Council

SPONSOR: John Magee, Vice-Dean, Faculty & Academic Life

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DATE: April 19, 2016 for April 20, 2016

AGENDA ITEM: 5

ITEM OF BUSINESS:
Approval of EDU Status Change and Name Change, Centre for Aboriginal Initiatives

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:
As per IV-9 of the Faculty of Arts and Science Council Constitution, “Council shall also review and approve or recommend for approval to the Governing Council proposals concerning Extra-Departmental Units in the Faculty, pursuant to the Policy on Interdisciplinary Education and Research Planning.”

GOVERNANCE PATH:

HIGHLIGHTS:
The Centre for Aboriginal Initiatives is an Extra-Departmental Unit C established in 1994 under the name Aboriginal Studies. It was renamed Centre for Aboriginal Initiatives in 2005 in the Faculty of Arts and Science. It offers the Specialist, Major and Minor in Indigenous Studies.

This is a proposal to disestablish the Centre for Aboriginal Initiatives as an EDU:C and establish the Centre for Indigenous Studies as an EDU:B within the Faculty of Arts and Science, effective July 1, 2016. The Faculty of Arts and Science is clearly identified as the lead Faculty.

As outlined in the proposal, the change of status to an EDU:B was recommended by the Report of the Special Rapporteur on Aboriginal Initiatives (December 2015) commissioned by the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science. The Centre currently offers undergraduate programs, holds budgetary and tenure-stream cross appointments, and administers research funds. The scope of these academic and research activities are more appropriately aligned with an EDU:B status, as outlined in the
Guidelines for Extra-Departmental Units (2015). As an EDU:B, the proposed Centre will have a Director appointed under the Policy on Appointment of Academic Administrators. Under the University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP), the Dean of Arts and Science will commission a review of the EDU and its programs as outlined in the Policy for Approval and Review of Academic Programs and Units.

The proposal has been subject to extensive consultation within the Faculty of Arts and Science. In preparing for the review report (see above), consultation occurred with members of the Centre for Aboriginal Initiatives, members of the Office of the Dean, members of First Nations House (Student Life), former directors of Centre, Elders, and interested people across the University of Toronto. Consultation was completed with departments with which the Centre for Aboriginal Initiatives holds joint appointments (English, Geography, and Political Science).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:
The Director of the proposed EDU:B will have responsibility for the overall direction of the Centre and in particular over the budget and recommendations for appointment. The EDU:B will administer research funds. The Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Science is ultimately responsible for the administration and budget of the EDU:B and the Director is accountable to the Dean for the financial management of the EDU:B and all of its resources.

UNIT NAME CHANGE:
The change in name reflects more current use, reflecting a shift in Canada to the term ‘Indigenous’, both in peer institutions, and most recently, at the federal level, with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development changing to Indigenous and Northern Affairs.

As a point of information, a change in name of Aboriginal Studies (the undergraduate interdisciplinary program) to Indigenous Studies was approved by the Undergraduate Humanities Curriculum Committee on February 8, 2016, and by the Undergraduate Social Sciences Curriculum Committee on February 12, 2016.

MOTION:

THAT pending approval of University governance:

(a) the Centre for Aboriginal Initiatives, presently an EDU:C, be disestablished, effective July 1, 2016; and
(b) the Centre for Indigenous Studies be established as an EDU:B, effective July 1, 2016.