Admission to Arts & Science from CEGEP II

Proposal for Faculty of Arts & Science Council
October 12, 2016

Preamble
The two-year CEGEP program in Quebec completes secondary school study for such students and provides a year of post-secondary study, enabling entry into Quebec universities for three more years to complete an undergraduate degree. This program, which binds together secondary and post-secondary education, produces curricular and experiential transition for students as they settle into the Faculty of Arts & Science.

On the one hand, such students are treated in academic and curricular terms as second year, effectively as if they transferred from a post-secondary institution. They have not been traditionally considered for admission scholarships, and have not been allowed to forfeit transfer credits gained from their CEGEP II completion. This also has meant that CEGEP II students do not have the option to join any program in Arts & Science that does not accept students directly from secondary-schools, like Rotman Commerce.

But CEGEP II students feel and experience the University and the Faculty of Arts & Science like new, direct-entry students. This has been recognized to enough of an extent that they are afforded some student life provisions normally accorded to students coming straight from high school, like access to orientation/transition events, and enjoying the on-campus housing guarantee.

CEGEP II students come to us from a specific, what we would see as hybrid curricular experience that started at the secondary-school level and ended with one year of post-secondary credits. Quebec universities are built for this transition in mind; we are not.

The Case for Change
Some of the challenges the CEGEP II students face in terms of making the curricular transition – figuring out what to do with transfer credits, managing admission to program(s) of study – are precisely those of any transfer student from another university. It is sometimes easy to make the transition if foundational courses and credits earn line up effectively, but often there is a rough patch where students need to catch up foundational courses to make the in-road into the program(s) they hoped to take. But this group in effect still qualifies as “direct entry” students from Quebec, and mitigating any of these structural disadvantages is wholly in the Faculty’s interest, lest these students – who academically do

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1 That said, in light of changes outlined in this document, Merike Remmel, Assistant University Registrar and Director of Admissions, has indicated in an email dated August 31, 2016, that it will be the practice going forward at Enrolment Services that CEGEP II students be eligible for admission awards, but that Divisions would still be free to set their own policies.
very well – are unnecessarily blocked from some options and we lose out recruiting students from one of the biggest provinces in Canada.²

The Rotman Commerce program has been the catalyst for considering change. This program does not admit students from other post-secondary institutions, so students from Quebec were effectively blocked. The proposal below will outline the changes that the Rotman Commerce program intends to make in offering admission consideration to these students, and the changes the Faculty of Arts & Science will make to allow enough flexibility that this access allows better student strategy, and reduces the potential for onerous fees implications.

To understand the “fees implications” one has to note that Rotman Commerce, as a deregulated program, charges differential fees beginning at the start of second year (the first session after which at least 4.0 credits have been earned). To ensure all Rotman Commerce students pay the differential fees equally, the fees are charged retroactively if students are admitted later than the beginning of their second year. Even in offering access to CEGEP II students, given these students will certainly have to spend a year, after admission, taking courses for admission, and given they, nearly by definition, enter as a second year student, the potential for these students to be burdened with retroactive fees charged back to their first registration session would present a disincentive working against this whole endeavor. Hence this proposal also offers a new flexibility regarding forfeiture of received transfer credits to help provide a workaround to the retroactive fee practice.

In summary, the proposal will outline the following.

- A summary of the proposed admission options for CEGEP II students, and their special standing in their first year at Arts & Science.
- A proposal regarding the ability to forfeit CEGEP II credits, with precise limits, at the point when such students are offered admission to Rotman Commerce, to mitigate retroactive fees.

**Proposal Part 1: Admitting CEGEP II Students to Rotman Commerce**

1. Students admitted into the Faculty of Arts & Science from the CEGEP with 4.0 or more on-admission transfer credits may be admitted into the first year Rotman Commerce admission category, even with the status of a second-year student.

² The Policies and Principles for Admission to the University of Toronto (June 1991) makes note that:

> The University of Toronto in recognition of its special responsibilities to the peoples of Metropolitan Toronto, Ontario, and Canada, and to the diversity of those peoples may, on occasions when they are deemed necessary by the Academic Board on the recommendation of the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs, establish special criteria and procedures for admission with the intention of specifically improving the participation of particular groups as students. (Section 2.e, emphasis added)

The impetus to work our processes such that CEGEP II students are not disadvantaged systematically in their access to Arts & Science programs is not just good for the program(s) in question, but line up with our institutional responsibilities.
2. Such students will be pre-enrolled in the required and recommended 100- and 200-level courses needed to be considered for admission into the program, and to advance in the program.

3. Such students, as their year-of-study will be considered year two, will not enjoy priority enrolment in many 100-level courses, and would not be eligible for First Year Seminar (199) courses or First Year Foundations (College One) courses, so will be advised to look at the Faculty’s 200-level course offerings to fill out their first year here.

4. Like other first year Rotman Commerce students, these students from CEGEP will be assessed for admission both after the Fall/Winter Session and at the end of the Summer Session.

5. Such students will be eligible for faculty based admission scholarships, given that they will now be eligible for central based admission scholarships.

Proposal Part 2: Special Options for CEGEP II Students to Forfeit On-Admission Transfer Credits

1. CEGEP students who meet the conditions for admission to Rotman Commerce will have a mandatory one-on-one meeting with an advisor from Rotman Commerce to discuss admission, and the options below.

2. CEGEP students will be afforded the opportunity to forfeit some of their on-admission transfer credits at the point where they have been offered admission to the Rotman Commerce program.

3. The option to forfeit on-admission transfer credits will be limited such that they can reduce their on-admission transfer credits to 3.5 only, no fewer. This will enable these students to be retroactively considered as having entered the Faculty as first year students, and this mitigates the retroactive differential fees charged to students upon entering Rotman Commerce.

4. The option is limited to reducing on-admission transfer credits to only 3.5 so as to restrict the relative advantage that could be obtained strategically by forfeiting more credits – for example if, say, this afforded a boost overall to CGPA.

5. The advising session will include a discussion of the full implications of forfeiting on-admission transfer credits, including implications to the academic record and GPA.

6. If a student chooses not to forfeit credits down to 3.5 transfer credits, they will be charged retroactive fees as normal.

7. Any forfeiting of on-admission transfer credits will be considered final. If in the future a student leaves Rotman Commerce, they will not be allowed reinstatement of these transfer credits. That said, if special circumstances arise, they may take their case first to the Records Office for review.

8. A student who forfeits credits under this auspice will sign a form reiterating these terms, and a copy of this form will go to the Records Office. Forfeited credits will be removed from the academic record and a note will be applied indicating the forfeiture.

9. Once the forfeiting of credits is complete, Rotman Commerce will finalize admission to the specialist program of their choosing.