FOR APPROVAL

TO: Arts & Science Council

SPONSOR: Dwayne Benjamin, Vice-Dean, Graduate Education

CONTACT INFO: vicedeeangradeartsci@utoronto.ca

DATE: November 14, 2018 for November 21, 2018

AGENDA ITEM: 3

ITEM OF BUSINESS:
Major Modification – Approval of New Field within the Department of History’s Master of Arts

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:
The 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, such as new program requirement options within an existing graduate program.

GOVERNANCE PATH:
1. Graduate Curriculum Committee – November 1, 2018 (for approval)
2. Arts & Science Council – November 21, 2018 (final approval)
3. Office of the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs (for information), in turn reported to the Committee on Academic Policy & Programs (for information) – May 8, 2019

The Office of the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs will also report this major modification to the Ontario Universities Council on Quality Assurance in the summer of 2019.

HIGHLIGHTS:
The Department of History is proposing a new field, Contemporary International History, to be part of the current Master of Arts, effective September 1, 2019. Applying historical research to contemporary policy analysis is a critical skill that is often missing in the public and private sector. This field develops an understanding of the historical contexts of contemporary (typically, post-1945) global disputes and challenges, with the goal of preparing students for decision-making in non-academic careers in government, international organizations, NGOs, media, business and finance, law, and the cultural sector. Graduates will also be well-prepared for continued academic study.

The Contemporary International History MA field will build on the existing MA structure but offer a unique experience. Students in this field will complete the existing MA requirements, in addition to a
specialized core course in International History. They will also pursue different research outcomes for their capstone 2000 paper, focusing more heavily on policy relevance and applicability to future career pathways.

It is anticipated that there will be a steady state intake 15 students annually within five years, with at least 10 of these students representing net growth to the MA program. This field is one element in a larger drive currently underway to renew History’s graduate curriculum and offerings; its creation addresses both the evolution of the History field and the challenges of the job market confronting History graduate students by expanding opportunities for training and building practical experience in research, analysis, and communications.

The proposed concentration will be offered through the existing faculty complement. Forty-five faculty members from the Tri-Campus Department (over half of the department’s total faculty complement) teach and conduct research in the area of the proposed field. A core of ten faculty will take primary responsibility for teaching in this field.

This proposal has been developed in consultation between the Department of History and the Office of the Dean, Faculty of Arts & Science, as well as the Office of the Vice-Provost, Academic Programs.

MOTION:

a) THAT the proposed new field in Contemporary International History within the Master of Arts, as described in the attached proposal dated November 14, 2018, be approved effective for the academic year 2019-20.