FOR APPROVAL

TO: Arts & Science Council

SPONSOR: Jay Pratt, Vice-Dean Research & Infrastructure

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DATE: April 10, 2019 for April 17, 2019

AGENDA ITEM: 4

ITEM OF BUSINESS:
Proposal for the Closure of the Institute for Optical Sciences – EDU-C

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.” The creation or closure of an EDU-C requires final approval by the Faculty of Arts & Science Council.

GOVERNANCE PATH:
1. Arts & Science Council [For Approval], April 17, 2019.

HIGHLIGHTS:

This proposal is to close the Institute for Optical Sciences (IOS) as an EDU-C of the Faculty of Arts & Science. The IOS was established in 2006 with major participants from the departments of Chemistry and Physics in Arts & Science and from the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering. For the last 5 years, the IOS has been dormant, with no budget or staff and no students enrolled since 2013. Following the closure, FAS will work collaboratively with appropriate Chairs regarding space reallocation planning.

NOTION OF MOTIONS:

Be It Resolved
THAT the Institute for Optical Sciences be closed as an EDU-C of the Faculty of Arts & Science, with immediate effect.
Proposal for Closure: Institute for Optical Sciences – as an Extra-Departmental Unit type ‘C’ (EDU-C) of the Faculty of Arts & Science (A&S) at the University of Toronto

April 1, 2019

Brief History of the EDU-C

The Institute for Optical Sciences (IOS) was established in A&S in 2006 as an EDU:C to serve as the intellectual focus for research involving light-matter interactions. It was to serve as a means to break down traditional barriers between disciplines and allow for the development and transfer of integrated knowledge. Faculty from the departments of Chemistry and Physics in the Arts & Sciences; and faculty from the Electrical and Computer Engineering and Material Science and Engineering in the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering were the major participants.

Reason for Recommending Closure of the EDU-C

For the last 5 years, IOS has been essentially dormant, without a director. Throughout this period, the Institute has had no budget and no staff. The Institute is the supporting unit of the Master’s level Collaborative Specialization in Optics. The Collaborative Specialization has had no students enrolled since 2013 and is closing through a separate proposal in parallel with the closure of IOS.

Under the Direction of Dr. Cynthia Goh (Dr. Dwayne Miller was the previous and inaugural IOS director), the activities of the IOS expanded considerably in the areas of entrepreneurship, knowledge and technology transfer and in 2013, she spearheaded the establishment of the Impact Centre to accommodate further growth in these areas. There was a search for a new Director of IOS at that time, but it was unsuccessful.

Closure Plans and Activities

We have consulted with the former Director of IOS, the Chairs of the Departments of Chemistry and Physics, as well as the Vice-Dean Research of the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering. All are in agreement with our plans for closure. This closure will not affect the research of our faculty in any way, given that the IOS has functionally ceased to exist for several years already.

We are in the process of auditing how the 470 nasms allocated to IOS in the McLennan Physical Laboratories (M02) are currently being utilized, and will work collaboratively with the appropriate Chairs to ensure that any future space reallocation plans minimize disruptions to the research activities of our faculty members.

Effective Closure Date

It is recommended that the IOS, as an EDU-C of the Faculty of A&S be closed effective immediately – April 17, 2019.