FOR APPROVAL

TO:         Arts & Science Council

SPONSOR:    Dwayne Benjamin, Vice-Dean, Graduate Education

CONTACT INFO:  vicedeangraduate.artsci@utoronto.ca

DATE:       April 10 for April 17, 2019

AGENDA ITEM:  5

ITEM OF BUSINESS:
Proposal for the closure of the Collaborative Specialization in Optics (MSc)

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:
The Arts & Science Council has delegated authority to approve major modifications that are defined in the University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP), including the closure of a graduate collaborative specialization.

GOVERNANCE PATH:
1. Graduate Curriculum Committee – March 7, 2019 (for approval)
2. Arts & Science Council – April 17, 2019 (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 collaborative specialization in Optics (MSc) was established in 2008, with the objective of stimulating interactions and collaborations between students studying optics in four participating departments: Chemistry, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering, and Physics.

The collaborative specialization is offered through the Institute for Optical Sciences (IOS), an EDU:C in the Faculty of Arts & Science. The IOS was created in 2004 to serve as the intellectual hub for research involving light-matter interactions in all forms. Over time, the mission of the IOS evolved, and in 2013 an offshoot EDU, the Impact Centre, was created. The IOS became redundant and has been effectively defunct since 2013, and its closure is proposed alongside that of the collaborative specialization.
The IOS provided administrative support for the collaborative specialization in Optics, and delivered its core course. Because the IOS is defunct, the collaborative specialization in Optics is no longer operational, and no students have been enrolled in the specialization since 2013.

The Chairs of the participating departments have agreed that the collaborative specialization should be formally closed through governance.

**MOTION:**

a) THAT the proposed closure of the Collaborative Specialization in Optics in the Faculty of Arts & Science, described in the attached proposal dated February 21, 2019, be approved with full effect on September 1, 2019.
University of Toronto
Proposal for the Closure of an Existing Program
(Graduate or Undergraduate)

(This template has been developed in line with the University of Toronto’s Quality Assurance Process.)

The process followed for the closure of any program is the same as that required for the approval of any new such program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Closure Proposed:</th>
<th>Collaborative Specialization in Optics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Please specify precisely what is being closed:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i.e., Graduate diploma, field, certificate, option within a program (e.g., specialist, major, or minor), entire program, or degree (graduate or undergraduate)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Faculty / Academic Division:       | Arts & Science                        |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Faculty / Academic Division contact:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dwayne Benjamin, Vice-Dean, Graduate Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sharon Kelly, Research and Graduate Academic Planning Coordinator</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Effective date program will be closed to new admissions: | September 1, 2019 |

| Effective date of full closure of program: | September 1, 2019 |
| (date by which students currently in the program will be expected to graduate) |                                      |

| Version Date:                  | February 21, 2019 |

1 Brief Summary

- Please clarify precisely what is being closed
- What is the relationship between what is being closed and any remaining offerings:
  - If only part of a program is being closed, please clarify the relationship between this and those portions of the program that will remain open

The Collaborative Specialization in Optics is being closed. This is a Master’s level specialization, with the participation of the following four programs:

- MSc in Chemistry
- MASc in Electrical and Computer Engineering
- MASc in Materials Science and Engineering
- MSc in Physics

There have been no students enrolled in the collaborative specialization since 2013.

2 Rationale

Background:

- You may wish to speak to when the program was first created / how long has it been offered / past success of the program
- What has led to the decision to close the program?
- Please provide a full academic rationale
  - You may wish to refer to changing enrolment; changing disciplinary landscape; shifting expertise of the professoriate; poor quality of the academic offering; overlap with other existing programs
  - Where appropriate, you may want to quote from recent unit or program reviews.
  - Explain alignment with the unit’s academic plan

The Collaborative Specialization in Optics was created in 2008, with the objective of stimulating interactions and collaborations between students studying optics in the four participating departments, allowing them to explore the multi-disciplinary facets of optics. The collaborative specialization provided a technical education in optics, combined with professional skills development and the formation of a community among optics students.

The collaborative specialization is offered through the Institute for Optical Sciences (IOS), an EDU:C in the Faculty of Arts and Science. The IOS was created in 2004 to serve as the intellectual hub for research involving light-matter interactions in all forms. Over time, the mission of the IOS evolved, and in 2013 an offshoot EDU, the Impact Centre, was created. The Impact Centre maintained as a key focus research related to optics and various related areas (materials, devices, biological), and as a result the IOS became redundant. Since 2013, the IOS has been without a director, faculty participation or budget, and has been effectively defunct.

The IOS provided administrative support for the collaborative specialization in Optics, and delivered its core course. Because the IOS is defunct, the specialization is no longer operational. The closure of
the IOS is being taken through governance concurrently with the closure of the collaborative specialization, through a separate proposal.

3 Impact on other programs/units of the proposed closure

- Please provide evidence of consultation with any programs/units/faculties that will be affected
- What are the positive and negative implications that need to be considered in the closure
- Impact on the nature and quality of the division’s program of study
- Impact of closure on other units including inter-divisional and inter-institutional agreements/contracts
- Please mention if the courses that supported this degree, program, or program option will continue to be offered

The closure of the collaborative specialization in Optics has been discussed with faculty members specializing in optics from the four departments mentioned above. Even though the specialization and the Institute are now defunct, the ongoing research efforts of these faculty are continuing in the field of optics, and they continue to work with graduate students in their research projects.

The Chairs of the four participating units were also consulted about the proposed closure, and they communicated no concerns.

4 Student Accommodation

Please include:

- Current enrolment showing breakdown by year in the program / option being closed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1: Graduate Breakdown</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current enrolment Masters</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- What will the impact of the proposed closure be on the range of academic options available to students in the future? (i.e. are there other programs or options that will fill the void that may/may not be created by the closure?)

There are no students currently enrolled in the collaborative specialization.
5 Faculty / Staff Accommodation

There are currently no faculty or staff members assigned to this specialization. We do not anticipate any impact.

6 Governance Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Levels of Approval Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Decanal / Provostial Sign-Off</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty/Divisional Council (approval of closure of minors, where there is a continuing (specialist or major)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Submission to Provost’s Office</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP&amp;P(approval of program closures: undergrad specialists/majors; minors where there is no specialist of major; graduate fields or diploma, and collaborative programs)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Board (approval of degree, graduate program, diploma closures)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Committee of Governing Council (executive confirms degree, grad program, closures)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclusion in Annual report to Quality Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inclusion in Annual report to MTCU (in case of closure of degree)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>