FOR INFORMATION

TO: Arts & Science Council

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AGENDA ITEM: 7

ITEM OF BUSINESS:
Executive Summary of Academic Change in Undergraduate Curriculum

HIGHLIGHTS:

The 2018-19 Governance Cycle saw a number of changes from academic units in keeping with effective annual review of their curriculum, with new courses and program changes reflective of emergent teaching needs and trends in the field. Many units are working to keep in balance the need for new courses to align with faculty strengths, the maintenance of existing courses continues that will not all be offered in a given year, and the need to ensure good access to core courses for undergraduates.

The largest single set of minor modifications in 2018-19 was the integration of First-Year Foundation Seminars (formerly “199s”) into the curricular governance process. This transition involved the creation of 145 unit-specific course codes, and allows these seminars to be published in the Arts & Science Academic Calendar where they will be searchable and grouped with academic units’ course sections.

Additionally, the faculty has made an update to the current policy guidelines on Streams and Focuses, to update definitions and implementation guidelines, and incorporate Category 2 Certificates (in-conjunction with an undergraduate program) into the same guidelines. All three of these structures are increasingly of interest for academic units looking to differentiate their curriculum and the revised guidelines are expected clarify the benefits of each option and aid in academic planning processes.