



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO
MISSISSAUGA

TO: Erindale College Council
SPONSOR: Professor Amy Mullin, Dean
CONTACT INFO: 905-828-3719
DATE: September 29, 2011 for October 6, 2011
AGENDA ITEM: 3 (c)
ITEM IDENTIFICATION: Proposal for the University of Toronto Mississauga to serve as one of the lead collaborating divisions in establishing an Institute for Human Development (IHD) at the University of Toronto.

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

Erindale College Council has the authority over the establishment of an Extra-Departmental Unit C, which is defined as “normally a multidisciplinary multidepartmental research and/or academic unit with a defined research domain in a particular area of academic work. It exists to foster research and scholarly interest in the area”¹

HIGHLIGHTS:

This is a proposal that UTM serve as one of the lead collaborating divisions in establishing an Institute for Human Development (IHD) at the University of Toronto. The lead collaborating divisions are Medicine, OISE, and the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM) in partnership with University of Toronto Scarborough (UTSC) and the Faculty of Arts & Science. The IHD is envisioned as an extra-departmental unit type C, which exists to foster research and scholarly interest in a defined research domain. Core faculty members will be cross appointed and additional faculty members, with a meaningful but less significant time commitment to the goals of the institute, will serve as associate members.

This proposal has been brought forward in line with UTM’s significant research strength in the area of early childhood development, particularly in psychology and biology, but also more broadly in anthropology, language studies, philosophy, mathematical and computational sciences and sociology. The focus of the IHD is on interventions (including early diagnosis and prevention) in early childhood development that promote health and well-being. The IHD will be transdisciplinary as well as interdivisional, with a focus on the need to be aware of the social and educational contexts that can support or undermine the optimization of health and

¹ *Guidelines for Administrative Functions and Protocols of Extra-Departmental Units (EDU)*

well-being in children's development. In addition to fostering collaborative research, and disseminating knowledge broadly both within and outside the academy, the institute will develop collaborative educational courses and programs aimed at undergraduates, graduates, and postdoctoral fellows, in order to prepare the next generation of researchers and leaders in the field of human development.

Throughout the past year, with guidance and support from the University Provost and President, researchers from all of the proposed collaborating divisions, along with the relevant deans and vice principals research, have worked jointly on the proposal. Two UTM faculty members have taken lead roles in the development of the proposal, and are listed as two of the seven core faculty members whose research is described in the appendix to the proposal for the IHD. At UTM, the proposal was also developed in consultation with the Principal, Vice Principal Research, and Vice Principal Academic and Dean. In addition, the proposal was circulated to chairs of all departments and had a full discussion with positive feedback at a chairs' meeting in early September. The proposal has been reviewed and recommended for approval to Erindale College Council, by two of its standing committees: the Resource Planning and Priorities Committee and the Academic Affairs Committee.

All feedback to this point has been strongly positive, with strong support for the interdisciplinary nature of the project and its significant potential for direct impact on health and well-being.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

UTM's financial contribution to the institute would come in the form of in-kind support for faculty remuneration and research infrastructure (including overhead on research grants held by core faculty members). It is anticipated that UTM's contribution of this kind would be approximately \$150,000 for the first two years of the IHD, and \$300,000 for the next three years. The IHD is also expected to be a primary goal for fundraising both centrally and more specifically at UTM.

Space implications at UTM relate solely to any faculty hires that may be enabled by successful fundraising in support of the IHD. While it is difficult to predict the results of fundraising, 2-3 faculty members would be the most presently anticipated. Any new hires would have to be consonant with departmental academic plans and our master plan for space. Any faculty hires would be several years down the road, towards 2015.

RECOMMENDATION:

Be it resolved:

THAT the University of Toronto Mississauga serve as one of the lead collaborating divisions in establishing an Institute for Human Development (IHD) at the University of Toronto described in the proposal dated September 9, 2011, effective October 19, 2011.