



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

MISSISSAUGA

Memorandum To: Members of Erindale College Council
From: Prof. Angela Lange, Chair, Academic Affairs Committee
Date: November 27, 2009
Regarding: Major Curriculum Changes for 2010-11

The Academic Affairs Committee approved the following two program deletions at its meeting on November 23, 2009. These two program deletions comprise the major curricular changes for the 2010-11 academic year, which are to be submitted for Erindale College Council approval.

I would like to propose the following motion:

**Be it resolved,
THAT**

Erindale College Council approve curriculum changes for the 2010-11 academic year, as detailed in the proposals below.

Deleted Programs:

- 1. Health Science Communication Major (Science) ERMAJ1095 will no longer be offered, starting in academic year 2010-2011.**

As a result of the external review for the Institute of Communication and Culture (ICC) in 2008, the external reviewers recommended that the Health Science Communication Major be discontinued. The external reviewers wrote in their report (in reference to both the HSC and HCT programs):

“...Since these programs loosely share the characteristic of being outside the media focus of other programs within CCIT, and since they seem to be attracting very low numbers of students, we would recommend that they be closed. This closing would allow CCIT to refine its focus, streamline its structure, and better highlight its strengths.”

Rationale: The original intention of this Major was to serve as a feeder into the Masters program in BioMedical Communication, but this has not been successful, as evidenced by the fact that the Health Sciences Communications Major (ERMAJ1095) has had historically low enrolments. The

current enrolment in this program is 12 students; these students will be grandfathered into the program. The chief impediment to the success of this program has been that students in Culture, Communication, and Information Technology (CCIT) generally have not been able to satisfy the minimal Science requirement to enter the program. With the planned transfer of the BioMedical Communications faculty to the Department of Biology from the Institute of Culture and Communication, it was felt that this program was no longer viable. It is intended, however, that the existing HSC-designated courses remain in the CCIT curriculum and be re-designated as CCT courses, renumbered where appropriate. These changes are to be implemented during the 2010 curriculum review cycle.

It is also envisaged that a module be developed in the planned Communications, Information and Media specialist program around these courses focusing on the creation and use of digital media in health communication.

2. Human Communication and Technology Specialist (Science) ERSPE1230 will no longer be offered, starting in the academic year 2010-2011.

As a result of the external review for the Institute of Communication and Culture (ICC) in 2008, the external reviewers recommended that the Human Communication and Technology Specialist be discontinued. The external reviewers wrote in their report (in reference to both the HCT and HSC programs):

“...Since these programs loosely share the characteristic of being outside the media focus of other programs within CCIT, and since they seem to be attracting very low numbers of students, we would recommend that they be closed. This closing would allow CCIT to refine its focus, streamline its structure, and better highlight its strengths.”

Rationale: The Human Communication and Technology Specialist (ERSPE1230) has had historically very low enrolments. The current enrolment in this program is 5 students; these students will be grandfathered into the program. Students interested in combining Culture, Communication and Information Technology (CCIT) studies with Psychology have opted to take a double Major in CCIT and Psychology in preference to the HCT Specialist program. Further, given the resource constraints of the Department of Psychology, it was felt that students would be more than adequately served through the combined studies of a double major in CCIT and Psychology .

It is also envisaged that a number of focused CCIT courses will be developed to “bridge” Psychology and CCIT, specifically for the students who are majoring in CCIT and Psychology. Finally, we plan to offer either a module or part of a module within the planned Communication, Information and Media specialist program that will address cognitive psychology and the psychology of aging.