



## **GRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE**

*Report to Academic Council*  
at its meeting of January 20, 2015

### **FOR ACTION**

#### **1. New Graduate Diploma in Accounting**

The Graduate Studies Committee recommends:

*That Academic Council approve the new Graduate Diploma in Accounting*

The Faculty of Business and Information Technology (FBIT) is proposing the establishment of a new Type 3 Master's Diploma program in Accounting. This proposed diploma program will allow UOIT accounting students to achieve the new Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) designation. CPA Canada has developed and is managing the Professional Education Program (PEP), a six-module program designed to prepare students for careers as CPAs. UOIT's undergraduate courses are recognized for meeting the entrance requirements of the PEP and the curriculum of this proposed UOIT Graduate Diploma Program in Accounting has been accredited by CPA Ontario.

Current CPA Canada regulations allow universities to offer graduate programs only to their own graduates. UOIT Bachelor of Commerce graduates will not be able to enroll in an accounting graduate program at another university. FBIT and UOIT would be at a significant competitive disadvantage for attracting accounting students if they do not have access to the benefits of a graduate diploma program.

Offering a Graduate Diploma Program in Accounting would allow our Bachelor of Commerce graduates to save considerable time achieving their CPAs because they would be able to complete the program on a full-time basis within three months of graduation from the UOIT Bachelor of Commerce program, rather than needing 12-18 months to complete the equivalent PEP modules offered by CPA Canada. As a result students would be able to attempt the Common Final Examination (CFE) within about a year of graduation from UOIT. They would also be able to complete the modules before they begin their full-time jobs and benefit from familiarity with the faculty and location of UOIT, and the intensity of the learning environment with face to face instruction (the CPA PEP modules are mainly online). A detailed proposal is attached as an appendix A.

#### **2. Master of Education – Replacing Portfolio with Course Only option**

The Graduate Studies Committee recommends:

That Academic Council approve replacing the portfolio option with a course-only option in the Master of Education program.

The Faculty of Education is proposing to remove the portfolio option from the Master of Education program and replace it with a course-only option. To complete the course-only option students would be required to take 10 courses to complete the program. There are a number of students who complete the Master of Education program on a part-time basis, making the synthesis required in the portfolio option difficult for students to complete. With a course-only option students will have the ability to develop

critical research and communication skills and increase their knowledge of digital technology. A detailed proposal is attached as appendix B.

### **3. External Examiner Regulation Amendments**

The Graduate Studies Committee recommends:

*That Academic Council approve the changes to sections 3.8.4.2 and 3.8.1 of the Graduate Calendar as proposed in the attached documentation.*

The attached changes to the external examiner regulations are being proposed to: clarify the minimum requirements regarding expertise of external examiners; clarify PhD external reviewer independence; clarify conflict of interest; clearly stipulate requirements for external examiner rotations and the documentation required for all proposed examiners. A detailed proposal is attached as appendix C.

## **FOR INFORMATION**

### **4. Annual Reports of Faculty Councils for 2014**

The Committee received for information the annual reports from the Faculty Councils of the Faculty of Education, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science, Faculty of Health Sciences and the Faculty of Business and Information Technology summarizing graduate curricular changes in 2014 calendar year.