
Memorandum

Office of the ProvostJames Administration Bldg., Room 504
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TO: Senate
FROM: Professor Anthony Masi, Provost
SUBJECT: Proposed Amendment to the University Statutes
DATE: September 4, 2013
DOCUMENT #: D13-06

ACTION REQUIRED: INFORMATION APPROVAL/DECISION

ISSUE: Currently, the University Statutes list over 50 specific degree titles. When a new degree is added or deleted or the name of the degree is changed, an amendment to the Statutes is required. While it is important that the University maintain an up-to-date and accurate list of approved degree programs it is not necessary or appropriate for this list to be set out in the Statutes since the Statutes already contain provisions dealing with how degree programs are to be approved.

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE: At the May 2013 Senate meeting, the Provost submitted a notice of motion to Senate explaining that each time a change is made to the degrees granted by the University, an amendment to the Statutes is required. Consequently, the Provost informed Senate that he would propose an amendment to Senate in September to replace the list of 50 specific degree titles in the Statutes with a more general clause.

The rationale for this change is that the degrees that can be granted are exactly the degrees approved by Senate. The record of such degrees is established by the Minutes of Senate, and possibly, also by the minutes of the Board of Governors. As such, the degrees are an outcome of governance processes and do not and should not require amendment of the Statutes each time a degree is added, deleted or amended. Such amendments, which are necessary even to change a single word in the degree title, are time and resource consuming; they require at least two meetings of Senate as well as meetings of the Board and subsequent submission to the Governor General as McGill's Visitor. The Visitor has up to 60 days to disallow the amendment, and it is only after the expiry of 60 days without a response from the Visitor that the amendment can be deemed to be approved.

The amendment process can take several months in total between the time notice is given to Senate and the Visitor's approval is in place. The delay in implementation of minor but important amendments may at times not be in the best interests of students or academic units. Since additions and changes in degree programs are relatively common, aligning the Statutes with routine

academic activities will enable the University to conduct routine academic matters in a timely and effective manner.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT:

The proposed amendment is as follows:

- a) delete the existing Article 13.1 from the Statutes, and
- b) new Article 13.1 to read as follows:

The University may offer degrees-in-course in any field of knowledge as shall be approved from time to time in accordance with these Statutes. The official record of degrees granted by the University shall be maintained by the Secretary General.

*Article 13.1.1 and subsequent clauses are unchanged.

MOTION OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL:

Be it resolved that the McGill Senate approve, and recommend to the Board of Governors that Article 13.1 of the University Statutes be amended as proposed.

PRIOR CONSULTATION:

N/A

APPENDICES:

Excerpt of the 447th Academic Policy Committee Report (to illustrate Senate's involvement in the amendment process).

NEXT STEPS

N/A



McGill

Memorandum

Office of the Provost
James Administration Building

TO: Senate

FROM: Anthony C. Masi, Chair of the Academic Policy Committee

SUBJECT: Notice of Motion to amend University Statutes

DATE: 10th May 2013

DOCUMENT #: ***D12-67 APPENDIX B***

FOR: DECISION APPROVAL DISCUSSION

ISSUE: Change in degree designations
Master of Library and Information Studies (M.L.I.S.)
to:
Master of Information Studies (M.I.St.)

BACKGROUND: The Academic Policy Committee, at a meeting on 11th April 2013, approved major revisions to the Master of Library and Information Studies, which included a change in the degree designation to "Master of Information Studies". The change is in keeping with the evolution of the discipline; it reflects the evolving dynamic of the information studies field, and is inclusive of all the cognate areas of interest in the field. It also is in alignment with the name of the School that offers this professional master's program and the Ph.D. in Information Studies

MOTION OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL: The old degree designation requires deletion from the *Statutes* and the new degree designation requires addition to the *Statutes*.
In accordance with Article 15.1 of the University *Statutes*, I hereby submit the following motion to amend the *Statutes*:

Be it resolved that Senate recommends to the Board of Governors that Article 13.1 of the Statutes be amended as indicated below:

13.1 The following are the degrees granted by the University in course:

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| <i>Master of Education</i> | <i>M.Ed.</i> |
| <i>Master of Engineering</i> | <i>M.Eng.</i> |
| <i>Master of Laws</i> | <i>LL.M.</i> |
| <i>Master of Library and Information Studies</i> | <i>M.L.I.S.</i> |
| <u><i>Master of Information Studies</i></u> | <u><i>M.I.St.</i></u> |
| <i>Master of Management</i> | <i>M.M.</i> |
| <i>Master of Music</i> | <i>M.Mus.</i> |
| <i>Master of Sacred Theology</i> | <i>S.T.M.</i> |

RATIONALE: Amendment of the University Statutes is necessary for McGill University to be allowed to confer the said new degree.

PRIOR CONSULTATION and APPROVAL *Approval:*
School of Information Studies Curriculum Committee
Faculty of Education Academic Policy Committee
APC Subcommittee on Courses and Teaching Programs (SCTP)
Council of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS)
Academic Policy Committee (APC)

NEXT STEPS: Motion to Senate
Motion from Senate to the Board of Governors.

APPENDICES: None
