

# Academic Standards, Curriculum & Pedagogy Report to Senate

At its meeting of October 22, 2015

## For Action

The Academic Standards, Curriculum & Pedagogy Committee met on 30 September, 2015 and makes this report to Senate for action and information.

### 1. Establishment of a Cross-Disciplinary Certificate in Aging • Faculty of Health

ASCP recommends,

that Senate approve the establishment of a Cross-Disciplinary Certificate in Aging, housed within the Office of the Dean, Faculty of Health, effective FW 2016-2017.

#### Rationale

Cross-Disciplinary is one of the categories of undergraduate certificates articulated in the *Senate Undergraduate Certificate Guidelines and Procedures*. Such certificates are to consist of a cluster of courses in a defined thematic area of interest, not confined to a single disciplinary area of study. The proposed Certificate in Aging reflects well the cross-disciplinary framework through its combination of courses in Psychology, Sociology, Kinesiology and Health Studies to achieve a defined set of learning outcomes centred on the topical theme of “aging”. There is an ample collection of faculty members conducting aging-focused scholarship within the Faculty of Health to ably support the certificate, including options for students to undertake thesis / independent study courses focused on an aging-related topic. Given its cross-departmental structure of courses and faculty members, the Certificate will be housed within the Office of the Dean and administered by a faculty Coordinator.

The Certificate will be an option for students in the Faculty of Health. It will allow students to broaden their skills and competencies within the area of aging to complement the learning outcomes of their degree program, which may benefit career plans and possibilities.

The Senate Committee concluded that the requirements for the Certificate are aligned with the Senate-defined standards required of a cross-disciplinary certificate and, as noted above, that the learning outcomes have been articulated and mapped to the credit requirements. Based on feedback from students, the enrolment target has been set at 20. Of the 14 courses supporting the certificate, one is new. The Dean has confirmed the resources are in place to offer the Certificate. Several Psychology courses housed at Glendon are included among the credit options for students; both the Department Chair and the Principal have confirmed these arrangements. Similarly, spaces in the Sociology course for Certificate students have been confirmed by the Department Chair in LA&PS.