



Physical & Environmental Sciences UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

SCARBOROUGH

Office of the Chair and Graduate Chair

Memo: 2010-11 Appointment of DPES Graduate Chair

From: William A. Gough, Chair and Graduate Chair, DPES

Date: July 30, 2010

The Agenda Committee of the Academic Board of Governing Council has approved my appointment as Graduate Chair of DPES following a recommendation of a search committee chaired by the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, Brian Corman, which met in mid-July. Until today, I had been serving in the role in an Acting capacity.

So what is a Graduate Chair? Graduate Chairs oversee the graduate operations of a department which offers graduate programs. Prior to May 31, 2010 no graduate program was officially governed and administered by a department at UTSC. Although the Masters of Environmental Science has been administered within DPES since 2006, its graduate unit was the Centre for Environment based on the St. George campus. In my role as Vice-Dean Graduate Education and Program Development I oversaw the transfer of the Masters to DPES at the end of the May. The PhD program in Environmental Science was officially approved in late June. With these two programs DPES became a graduate unit and this triggered the search for a Graduate Chair.

Although this turn of events was not anticipated by me even several weeks ago, I am delighted to take on this inaugural role as a natural extension of the work I did as Vice-Dean in shepherding the PhD program through various governance hurdles over the past year. I am mindful of the many demands on my time including providing leadership for the undergraduate operation and my own research activities. As noted in earlier memos, I have named three Associate Chairs to assist me in the administration of the department. In addition to these, and specific to the graduate department, I will be appointing an Associate Graduate Chair soon to oversee the graduate programs.