Memo

To: Rhonda Lenton, Vice-Provost Academic
Cc: Michael Schiff, Asst. Secretary, FGS; Cheryl Underhill, Secretary, Senate ASCP
From: Dezső J. Horváth, Dean
Date: November 28, 2014
Subject: Resource Statement for the Schulich Master of Accounting Program

I would like to express my full support for the proposed revision of the Master of Accounting (MAcc) Program, including the diplomas in Accounting Fundamentals (Type 3) and Advanced Accounting (Type 1). We hope to offer terms 2 and 3 of the revised MAcc and Diploma in Advanced Accounting starting in Fall 2015 to graduates of our BBA and iBBA programs, and the full offering consisting of the Diploma in Accounting Fundamentals, followed by all three semesters of the new MAcc starting in Winter 2016.

Given the changes in the professional qualification requirements resulting from the merger of Canada's three professional accounting bodies into the Society of Certified Professional Accountants (CPA), it is now necessary to offer a qualifying diploma (Diploma in Accounting Fundamentals, DACF) to students without business or (accredited) accounting backgrounds. Successful graduation from the DACF would qualify graduates for entry into the new 3-semester Master of Accounting program. Graduates from Schulich's BBA and iBBA programs, as well as graduates from other programs certified by the CPA would be able to directly enter the MAcc.

MAcc students would have the option of graduating with a Diploma in Advanced Accounting (DAAC) after completing Term 2 of the MAcc, or with a Masters degree upon completion of all three semesters. Students graduating with the DAAC could complete their professional qualification using the offerings of the CPA. Students graduating with the Masters degree would be qualified to directly challenge CPA's certification examination and, if passing, qualify as Professional Accountants.

The program has shown a positive net contribution margin from its inception and is expected to continue to do so. The proposed changes (including the DACF and the MAcc) call for a total of 8 new 3-credit and one new 1.5-credit courses. These 25.5 credits are offset by 22.5 credits in course retirements at the undergraduate and master's level, leaving the School with a net increase of 3.0 credits for the Masters degree and diplomas. Given the additional requirements for students entering from domestic and international non-business and non-accredited accounting programs, it is expected that the incremental revenues will more than balance the incremental costs.

The program will continue to be taught by the same faculty complement as the current MAcc. Student support as well as admissions resources are already in place and will not face significantly different demands. As a result, no notable changes in
the high quality of the program faculty or cost of the faculty or student services are expected.

In conclusion, I wish to express my full support of the changes proposed to the Master of Accounting and wish the program proponents much success in the approval and implementation process.