To: Dr. Erika Paterson

From: Carmen Chow

Date: October 10th, 2017

Subject: Proposal for introducing financial planning courses outside of the Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration at the University of British Columbia

**Introduction**

Over the past couple of years, I have noticed that there has been a fair number of post graduate students who are unfamiliar with common adult practises such as taxes, mortgage, and managing a savings account. The University of British Columbia offers a large selection of courses to prepare students on handling personal finance, such as “Income Taxation” and “Taxes and Decision Making”. However, these courses are restricted to students from the Faculty of Commerce and Business Administration. Because there are no such courses offered to students outside of Commerce, students from UBC’s Arts faculty are not prepared to handle their personal finances once they enter the labor force after they have graduated. As a result, it often leads to stress – not a surprise since money continues to be the leading cause of stress in the world.

My intended reader would be the staff of the Development and Alumni Engagement Team from the Dean’s office of the Faculty of Arts. Jennifer Peng, the Senior Associate Director of Development, would be my first reader of the proposal, followed by Leslie Fields, the Assistant Dean for this team.

**Statement of Problem**

Throughout my experience as a student from high school to my final years of university, there has been talk amongst my peers about how a “post-graduate” preparation course would have been a valuable learning experience if it had been offered at the school. The stress caused by financial problems in young adulthood could be reduced if there was more education provided regarding the issue.

**Proposed Solution**

Just as there are specially constructed English courses offered exclusively for students who are not majoring in that particular field, there should also be such courses made available for students who are not studying Commerce.

**Scope**

To access the feasibility of proposing a brand new course for non-Commerce students of UBC, I plan to pursue several areas of inquiry:

1. Determine the average level of financial literacy amongst Arts students
2. Conduct further research on common financial practises, such as balancing budgets, RRSP, TFSA, Income Tax, Mortgage, Car Leasing, and Investing.
3. Research the various health benefits of financial literacy

**Methods**

My primary data sources will include conducting a random sample of fifty UBC students. I will be printing sheets of paper with the above questions.

**My Qualifications**

I have been studying at UBC for five years as an Economics major, and have taken extra-curricular finance classes in my free time. I am familiar with many financial concepts, as well as having read several books on mortgage and investment savings, as well as having a reliable mentor who teaches me concepts that I do not learn at school.

**Conclusion**

It is quite evident that this is an alarming problem among freshly graduated students. Addressing this problem will not only reduce stress, but it will educate students about managing their own finances. With your approval, I will begin research at once.