

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Department of Human Centered Design and Engineering–Title Change for the Master of Science in Technical Communication DegreeRECOMMENDED ACTION

It is the recommendation of the administration and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee that the Board of Regents grant authority to the Department of Human Centered Design and Engineering to change the degree title from the Master of Science in Technical Communication (MSTC) to the Master of Science in Human Centered Design and Engineering (MSHCDE), effective immediately. The degree program is scheduled to be reviewed with the Department's Doctor of Philosophy degree program in the 2016-2017 academic year.

BACKGROUND

In January 2009, the Dean of the College of Engineering and the Provost approved the request from the faculty to change the name of the Department of Technical Communication to the Department of Human Centered Design and Engineering, effective immediately. Subsequently, the Graduate School received a request from the Department to change the degree title of the Master of Science in Technical Communication to the Master of Science in Human Centered Design and Engineering. The degree title change does not represent a change in the degree program requirements, but will better reflect the Department's research and academic programming. Further, it will demonstrate that the Department is a leader in human centered design and engineering and is at the forefront of an emerging discipline. The MSTC degree will be discontinued in spring 2011, when the last student enrolled in the program will have graduated.

The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, the Dean of the College of Engineering, and the Provost have reviewed and approved the recommendation. The Higher Education Coordinating Board will be informed of the Board of Regents' approval of the Department's master's degree program title change.