

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Degree Name Change in Department of Urban Design and Planning: From Master in Strategic Planning for Critical Infrastructures to Master of Infrastructure Planning and Management

RECOMMENDED 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 Urban Design and Planning to change the degree title from “Master in Strategic Planning for Critical Infrastructures” to “Master of Infrastructure Planning and Management.” This degree title change is effective beginning with students enrolling Autumn Quarter 2011. The degree program is scheduled to be reviewed in the 2013-14 academic year.

BACKGROUND

The Master in Strategic Planning for Critical Infrastructures (MSPCI) was approved by the Regents in July 2003. As part of its mandated five-year academic program review in 2008-2009, the review committee recommended revisions to the program. As a result, MSPCI halted admissions and began designing a revised curriculum. In October 2010, the Graduate School received a request from graduate faculty in the Department of Urban Design and Planning to implement these curricular changes along with the request for a new degree title: Master of Infrastructure Planning and Management. The Graduate School has reviewed and approves of the curricular revisions and supports the degree title change.

The revised program and new degree title will attract a much wider audience than the original MSPCI program. The revised curriculum will deliver an academically rigorous advanced degree to professionals seeking the skills necessary to adapt to all forms of hazard. The program will have evolved from a relatively narrow and conceptually challenging position of serving those who would protect infrastructure from tragedies such as that which occurred on 9-11, to a scientifically aware and financially sophisticated skill set delivered to those who are interested in motivating and managing adaptation and resilience to historically unanticipated events of all kinds. The term “critical infrastructures,” used in the original program title, has strong associations with homeland security and no longer reflects the program’s scope.

The Dean of the Graduate School, the Dean of the College of Built Environments, and the Provost have reviewed and approved this recommendation. The Higher Education Coordinating Board will be informed of the degree program title change if approval is granted by the Board of Regents.