

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Establish Degree Program: *Master of Science in Computational Finance and Risk Management*, Department of Applied Mathematics

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 graduate faculty in the Department of Applied Mathematics to offer the Master of Science in Computational Finance and Risk Management degree program, effective immediately. The degree program will have provisional status with a review to be conducted by the Graduate School in the 2016-2017 academic year.

BACKGROUND

In December 10, 2010, the Higher Education Coordinating Board approved the Planning Notification of Intent (PNOI) from the Department of Applied Mathematics to develop a proposal to offer a new fee-based Master of Science in Computational Finance and Risk Management degree program.

In Spring Quarter 2010, the Graduate School conducted a review of the Computational Finance Graduate Certificate Program (CGFCP). The program has been successful in attracting strong students and has a strong record of placement upon students' completion of their PhD programs. The committee recommended that the program be continued with the proviso that the curriculum be enhanced to provide students broader breadth in computational finance. The committee also recommended the development of a "parallel fee-based professional master's degree program." The master's degree program could generate revenue that would sustain the graduate certificate program and support the development of new courses to broaden it academically. Both programs could "co-exist and be synergistic."

On February 11, 2011, the Graduate School received the proposal from the Department of Applied Mathematics to offer the Master of Science in Computational Finance and Risk Management with delivery of the degree program to be both on campus and online. Projected enrollment will be 21 FTE in the first year with 48 FTE by 2013. The proposal was evaluated by faculty with expertise in the field from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Carnegie Mellon University and the International Computer Science Institute, University of California at Berkeley. Both faculty recommended that the degree program be approved noting it is timely, should generate sufficient financial resources for new faculty hires when critical enrollment level is reached, it is

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innovative, has a balanced and solid curriculum, and it meets regional needs while enabling the University of Washington to project a national presence.

On February 17, 2011, the Graduate School Council considered the Master of Science in Computational Finance and Risk Management and recommended unanimously that the proposal be forwarded to the Higher Education Coordinating Board for review and approval.

The Higher Education Coordinating Board on May 19, 2011 approved the Master of Science in Computational Finance and Risk Management degree program to be offered by the Department of Applied Mathematics at the University of Washington. It supports the Strategic Master Plan for Higher Education and the University's mission; it responds to student, employer, and community demand without duplicating existing programs and it will be offered at a reasonable cost.

The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Provost have reviewed and approved this recommendation. The Higher Education Coordinating Board will be informed of the Board of Regents approval of the Master of Science in Computational Finance and Risk Management degree program.