

## VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

## A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Rename Degree Program: From *Master of Science in Computing and Software Systems* to *Master of Computer Science and Systems*, Institute of Technology, UW Tacoma

## 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 Institute of Technology to change the name of the Master of Science in Computing and Software Systems to the Master of Computer Science and Systems. The degree title change is effective beginning with students enrolling Autumn Quarter 2011. The degree program is scheduled to be reviewed in the 2011-2012 academic year.

BACKGROUND

On March 31, 2011, the Graduate School received a request from the graduate faculty in the Institute of Technology at UW Tacoma to change the title of the Master of Science in Computing and Software Systems to the Master of Computer Science and Systems. Since there are no proposed changes to the curriculum, a transition plan is not needed for students currently in the program

The Master of Science in Computing and Software Systems (CSS) was approved by the Board of Regents in August, 2002. The degree program was designed originally to serve two populations of professionals—those with a baccalaureate degree in computer science and those with a baccalaureate in a related field and some education and experience in computing. Since its inception, the program varied from the traditional computer science programs in that the focus was on distributed computing and web applications.

In 2003, significant curriculum changes were made with emphasis placed on discrete mathematics, algorithms, and object-oriented design and development. These changes brought the program more in line with a traditional computer science program as taught at various institutions nationally. These topics are also consistent with the Computing Accreditation Commission's view of computer science.

The CSS program name has been problematic, resulting in the need to explain to prospective students and employers alike what "Computing and Software Systems" means. The Industrial Advisory Committee (IAC) for the Institute of Technology has also questioned why the program name is not more easily recognized by those in the computing industry and community at large. In its last meeting, the IAC voted unanimously to support a degree title change that would

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contain at least the words “Computer Science.” Additionally, in the 2008 program review conducted by the Graduate School, the review committee recommended a change in the degree program title to Computer Science and Systems. The new degree program title will differentiate it from the program offered by the Department of Computer Science and Engineering in Seattle. Finally, the degree title change is in line with the change approved for the Institute of Technology’s Bachelor Science in Computing and Software Systems which is now the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Systems.

The Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School, the Chancellor and the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs of the UW Tacoma, and the Provost have reviewed and approved this recommendation. The Higher Education Coordinating Board will be informed of the degree program title change if the Board of Regents grants approval.