VII.   STANDING COMMITTEES

A.   Academic and Student Affairs Committee

UW Tacoma Institute of Technology – Title Change for the Master of Computer Science and Systems Degree

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 at University of Washington, Tacoma, to change the name of the Master of Computer Science and Systems to the Master of Science in Computer Science and Systems. The degree title change is effective immediately. The degree program is scheduled to be reviewed in Spring Quarter, 2012.

BACKGROUND

On March 31, 2011, the Graduate School received a request from the graduate faculty in the Institute of Technology to change the title of the Master of Science in Computing and Software Systems to the Master of Computer Science and Systems. An error was made in the request for approval of the new degree. It did not reflect the degree title the faculty had approved which is Master of Science in Computer Science and Systems.

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 for professionals 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 in line with a traditional computer science program as taught at various institutions nationally, and consistent with the Computing Accreditation Commission's view of computer science.

The CSS program name was problematic, resulting in the need to explain to prospective students and employers alike what "Computing and Software Systems" meant. The Industrial Advisory Committee (IAC) for the Institute of Technology also questioned why the program name was not easily recognized by the computing industry and community at large. The IAC supported a degree title change that would contain at least the words "Computer Science." Additionally,

VII.   STANDING COMMITTEES

A.   Academic and Student Affairs Committee

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the 2008 program review committee, appointed by the Graduate School, recommended a change in the degree title to Computer Science and Systems. The new degree program title will differentiate it from that offered by the Department of Computer Science and Engineering in Seattle. Finally, the degree title change is in line with the change of 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 upon Board of Regents approval.