

VII. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Establishment of a Master of Science in Cyber Security EngineeringRECOMMENDED ACTION

It is the recommendation of the administration and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee that the Board of Regents grant authority to the Computing and Software Systems Program at the University of Washington, Bothell, to offer the Master of Science in Cyber Security Engineering degree program, effective Autumn Quarter 2013. This will be a fee-based program offered onsite, primarily in the evening, in coordination with UW Professional and Continuing Education (PCE). The degree program will have provisional status with a review to be scheduled for the 2018-2019 academic year. At such time that continuing status is granted, a ten-year review cycle would begin in coordination with regular Computing and Software Systems academic program reviews.

BACKGROUND

In January, 2013, the Graduate School received a full proposal from the graduate faculty of the Computing and Software Systems Program requesting authority to offer the Master of Science in Cyber Security Engineering. Implementation is planned for Autumn Quarter 2013. This 49-credit program will be available to both full-time students, who will complete the degree in two years, and to part-time students, who will complete the degree in three years. At maturity, the program anticipates 49 enrolled students (33 FTE).

The proposed degree curriculum takes a comprehensive approach to secure development lifecycle, including three primary processes: protection – hardening information infrastructures to make them more resistant to attack; detection – identifying intrusions by outsiders or abuses of privilege by insiders; and correction – response to attacks to minimize losses and facilitate re-engineering information infrastructures to eliminate vulnerabilities. In addition to these processes and the enabling technologies that accompany them, students will learn how to make decisions regarding investments of scarce resources in information assurance using cost-benefit analyses to support management decisions.

In January, 2013, the Interim Vice Provost and Dean of the Graduate School appointed two reviewers to evaluate the Master of Science in Cyber Security Engineering proposal. The reviewers both supported approval of the degree program. Each reviewer also made specific recommendations for improving the program, to which the program provided detailed responses.

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The Graduate School Council met on February 21, 2013, to discuss the degree proposal. The Council recommended that the proposal be forwarded to the Board of Regents for final approval. The Interim Dean of the Graduate School concurred with this recommendation.

The Interim Dean of the Graduate School, the Chancellor at the University of Washington, Bothell, and the Provost have reviewed and approved the recommendation to approve the Master of Science in Cyber Security Engineering.