STANDING COMMITTEES

Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Approve UW Tacoma Change of Status: Designation of the Institute of Technology from a Program to a School at the University of Washington Tacoma as a Collegiate-Level Unit Headed by a Dean

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is the recommendation of the administration and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee that the status of the Institute of Technology at the University of Washington Tacoma be changed to a School as a collegiate-level unit under the leadership of a Dean, effective September 16, 2016.

BACKGROUND

In 2001 the state’s legislature passed a bill that funded the creation of the Institute of Technology at UW Tacoma (henceforth referred to as the Institute). The bill states the following about the degree programs that would be offered by the Institute, “The university (UW Tacoma) will expand undergraduate and graduate degree programs meeting regional technology needs including, but not limited to, computing and software systems.” The BS in Computer Science and Systems (CSS) program existed prior to the formation of the Institute. Since 2001, the following degree programs have started in the Institute: The MS program in CSS launched in 2003, the BA program in CSS launched in 2005, the BS program in Computer Engineering and Systems (CES) launched in 2006, the BS program in Information Technology (IT) launched in 2009, and the Master of Cybersecurity and Leadership (MCL) launched in 2013. Student enrollments in the Institute have grown from 181 in 2007 to 780 in 2015.

The Institute plans to start new undergraduate and graduate programs in engineering in the coming years in order to keep up with the increased need for technology professionals in the South Sound. A new program that was proposed in 2015-16 and is currently moving through the UW system is the BS in Electrical Engineering (EE). The MS in Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) and the MS in Information Technology (IT) are also currently being considered by the Institute. These programs are expected to add approximately 220 new students to the unit. Students in these new programs and growth in existing programs will lead to an overall Institute enrollment of 1000 students in the very near future.

The new school will function as a traditional school and have the responsibilities that the President and the University faculty have delegated to the faculty of each school in accordance with the UW Faculty Code, Chapter 23, Sections 23-43. The
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School will be led by a “dean,” whose responsibilities are defined in the UW Faculty Code, Section 12-24, with one qualification: whereas Deans are responsible to the Provost, the School Dean will be responsible to the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Chancellor for all matters related to the educational, budgetary and administrative affairs of the School. A dean will bring his/her experience with a diversity of academic offerings to the school. Such leadership is vital to a nascent school that is looking to strengthen and expand its technical program base and strengthen the teaching, research, and engagement missions of the unit.

The Institute of Technology has grown rapidly since 2007. Student enrollment grew from 181 in 2007 to 780 in 2015. During the same time, the number of faculty increased from 15 to 35. Staff numbers have expanded from 5 in 2009 to 13 in 2016.

During the current academic year (2015-2016), the combined full-time faculty of the Institute of Technology consists of five Professors, seven Associate Professors, five Assistant Professors, twelve Lecturers, and one Acting Professor, for a total of 29 voting faculty; two Emeritus and one Affiliate Assistant Professor are also included in the faculty. Each degree program relies in part on a number of part-time lecturers, and there are currently two Assistant Professor and four lecturer searches for additional faculty underway for September 2016 hire.

To date, the programs have graduated 1,166 undergraduates and 334 graduate students.

Types of Degrees: The following degrees are currently offered by the programs.

Computer Science and Systems
- Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Systems
- Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science and Systems
- Master of Science in Computer Science and Systems

Computer Engineering and Systems
- Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering and Systems

Information Technology
- Bachelor of Science in Information Technology
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Cybersecurity and Leadership
  • Master of Cybersecurity and Leadership (currently a fee-based professional master’s degree offered jointly between the Institute of Technology and the Milgard School of Business)

Additional undergraduate and graduate degree programs are proposed, in development or planned for the future. These include a BS in Electrical Engineering, a BS in Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering, a BS in Cybersecurity, an MS in Computer and Electrical Engineering, and an MS in Information Technology.

The Institute currently offers a minor in Applied Computing, and two new non-credit certificates are under consideration: Ethical Hacking and Digital Forensics.

Conclusion
Given the increasing number of students, faculty and staff, coupled with the planned expansion of degree offerings, the significant growth and complexity of the Institute warrant its transition to school status. Furthermore, having a dean as its academic leader facilitates the Institute’s outreach and fundraising success. Industry and community partners expect to interact with a dean who is able to represent the best interests of the Institute while serving as a UWT campus leader. In order for campus to move to its next level of organizational maturity, the time is right for the Institute to become a School.

Attachment
Formation of Schools at UWT, UW Tacoma General Guidelines and Process for Formation of Schools (February 2014)
UW Tacoma General Guidelines and Process for Formation of Schools
(February 2014)\(^1\)

Guidelines

1. Designation, re-designation, or reorganization of academic units requires a compelling rationale. The primary motivation for organization as a School is to improve organizational effectiveness in fulfillment of curriculum and student learning, faculty and student scholarship, internal governance, and community engagement. Key considerations include the complexity, size, governance of the unit, its academic coherence, and the strategic needs of the campus.

2. Academic leadership at UW Tacoma will report to the Chancellor (via the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs). The Chancellor will allocate resources (including budgets, faculty positions, physical facilities) for Schools at UW Tacoma.

3. Consistent with the UW Faculty Code (23-45C), each School shall have an elected faculty council, which will advise its leadership on matters of policy. The faculty of each school shall determine for itself the organization and structure of its council and the procedure by which the members are elected, to be articulated in School by-laws.

4. The UW Tacoma Faculty Assembly Executive Council has the authority to determine how Faculty Senators will be allocated across the campus.

5. Schools may be sub-divided into units that will have delegated responsibilities. The appointing unit for hiring, promotion and tenure will be the School and not the sub-unit unless otherwise proposed by the faculty of the School and approved by the campus faculty (or Faculty Assembly Executive Council), VCAA, Chancellor, Provost, and Regents.

6. Each School will establish criteria for faculty appointments; promotion and tenure; and merit review, curriculum development, and admissions.

7. Additional Schools may be formed from existing Programs, new Programs, or a combination thereof as the Campus develops.

8. Existing Programs need not become Schools or units within Schools by any specific deadline.

9. The appropriate bodies of the UW Tacoma Faculty Assembly will continue to advise the Chancellor on matters affecting the general welfare of the campus, matters of faculty promotion and tenure, and on matters involving academic policy, including priorities, resource and salary allocation, and budgets.

\(^1\) These February 2014 Guidelines and Process may be modified as experience and circumstance warrant.
Process

1. The voting faculty of the affected academic units must vote (in accordance with the unit’s or units’ bylaws) in favor of the formation of a School, including a plan for governance.

2. The faculty, along with the Chancellor, Provost, and chair of the Faculty Senate Committee on Planning and Budget (or representatives of these offices) should confer regarding the applicability of sections of Chapter 26 of the *Faculty Code* (Reorganization, Consolidation, and Eliminations of Programs). If applicable, the process of the appropriate section must be followed.

3. The proposal for formation of a School should address the rationale, considerations, and requirements identified in the Guidelines above.

4. The formation of a School shall be approved by the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (EVCAA) and the Chancellor, following review and recommendation by relevant campus bodies (Academic Council2 (AC) and Faculty Assembly Executive Council (EC)) before being forwarded to the Provost for review and approval. The Provost will then submit to the Regents for information (or approval in cases for which Regental action is required, such as the appointment of Deans).

5. In accordance with Faculty Assembly by-laws and the *Faculty Code*, School by-laws will be approved by appropriate faculty and administrative bodies before implementation.

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2 The current name of the leadership group composed of the Chancellor, VCAA, heads of all academic units and programs, Faculty Assembly chair and vice chair, and head of the campus branch of UW Libraries.