STANDING COMMITTEES

Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Approve UW Tacoma Change of Status: Designation of the Institute of Technology and the Education Program at the University of Washington Tacoma as Collegiate-Level Units Headed by Deans

RECOMMENDED ACTION

It is the recommendation of the Administration and the Academic and Student Affairs Committee that the status of the Institute of Technology and the Education Program at the University of Washington Tacoma be changed to schools in a collegiate-level unit each under the leadership of a dean, with the effective date of the transition to occur with the appointment date of the inaugural dean.

BACKGROUND

The UW Tacoma Institute of Technology and the Education Program have now reached a maturity, size, support structure and status, with full potential for further growth to warrant their change of status to collegiate-level schools each headed by a dean, effective September 16, 2016.

The transition of the two units to the status of collegiate-level units each headed by a dean was widely reviewed and supported the UW Tacoma community. This change in designation is important for leadership, accreditation, and external relations activities and will contribute to the continued growth and success of the Schools and the campus as a whole. The 2014 UW Tacoma General Guidelines and Process for Formation of Schools was adhered to in advancing the above recommendation (see attachment).

The Institute of Technology

In 2001 the Washington State Legislature passed a bill that funded the creation of the Institute of Technology at UW Tacoma. 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, the BA program in CSS, the BS program in Computer Engineering and Systems (CES), the BS program in Information Technology (IT), and the Master of Cybersecurity and Leadership (MCL). A new program that was proposed in 2015-16 and is currently moving
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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.

Student enrollments in the Institute have grown 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.

The estimated financial impact for the Institute of Technology as a collegiate-level unit headed by a Dean will be within the range of $35,000 to $50,000.

Education Program
The Education Program offers 20 program, credential, and endorsement options as well as certification options and MEd and EdD degrees. The Education program, in collaboration with the Nursing and Healthcare Leadership program, is home to the first doctorate available on either the Bothell or Tacoma campuses with a graduating cohort of 32 students by December 2016.

The 14 members of the full-time faculty consist of eight full professors, five associate professors, one assistant professor and one senior lecturer. In order to complete the mission of the program, 37 part-time faculty teach courses and/or provide field supervision and five staff members support the program.

The Education Program’s Center for Strong Schools launched a path breaking partnership with Tacoma Public Schools, called the Tacoma Whole Child Initiative (TWCI) intended to harness the momentum of school transformation on an unprecedented scale. Since 1992 the Education faculty members have been Principal Investigators, co-Principal Investigators or researchers on 43 externally funded grants totaling over $16 million from the U.S Department of Education, the National Science Foundation, and the Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The estimated financial impact for the Education Program as a collegiate-level unit headed by a Dean will be within the range of $35,000 to $50,000.
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Summary
The designations of the schools under the leadership of Deans are important milestones for the units and the campus as a whole, creating a more recognizable and effective structure, and supporting increased visibility, support, and impact with external communities.

Attachment
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.
Formation of Schools at UWT

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.