UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT & PROVOST

APPENDIX "B" TO REPORT NUMBER 142 OF THE COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC POLICY AND PROGRAMS – September 15, 2009

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

SPONSOR: Cheryl Regehr, Vice-Provost, Academic Programs
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DATE: September 4, 2009

AGENDA ITEM: **8**

ITEM IDENTIFICATION: **Faculty of Arts and Science and School of Graduate Studies: Proposal for a Master of Science in Applied Computing (M.Sc.A.C.)**

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:
The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs considers academic program proposals forwarded from divisional councils. Proposals are forwarded to the Planning and Budget Committee for a review of planning and resource implications. Recommendations are then forwarded to the Academic Board and, subject to its endorsement, to the Governing Council for approval.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

HIGHLIGHTS:
The proposed Master of Science in Applied Computing (M.Sc.A.C.) is a stand-alone professional masters degree that has resulted from a planning process within the Department of Computer Science in the Faculty of Arts and Science. The M.Sc.A.C. will be a 7.0 FCE, 16-month professional master's program comprising two terms of coursework and a compulsory 8-month term industrial internship. The program description and details regarding the academic rationale and requirements are outlined in the attached proposal.

The need for a professional graduate-level program has been identified by students and through industry surveys. It is intended for students with a strong undergraduate degree in Computer Science or a related discipline who want to expand their academic competence, but do not intend to pursue careers in research. The proposed program will accelerate the uptake of novel research in computing and related disciplines in the field. A number of Canadian universities have started similar programs. A committee was established within the Department of Computer Science that consulted with faculty members and graduate students. The proposed program is distinct from the Department's research master's program.

The internship component of the program is large (3.0 FCE) and students will be required to demonstrate that they are able to translate some novel research idea into practice. The research component of the internship will be related to faculty member research. Students will be required to follow one of the program's core courses while completing the paid internship and would therefore still be closely involved with the Department.

In developing the proposal, the Department has consulted with members of the Departments of Mathematics and Statistics, Faculty of Arts and Science; Edward S. Rogers Sr. Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering; and the Faculty of Information. The proposal has also been discussed with the administrators of the Applied Science and Engineering Professional Experience Year program, who are enthusiastic about prospects for collaboration.

The proposal was reviewed by the Faculty of Arts and Science Three Campus Graduate Curriculum Committee at its meeting on April 15, 2009 and approved by School of Graduate Studies Council on May 19, 2009.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:
The Faculty of Arts and Science have committed to provide all the resources needed for this program. The financial plan has been reviewed by the Faculty of Arts and Science and by the Planning and Budget Office. This proposal will be presented for concurrence to the Planning and Budget Committee on October 28, 2009.

RECOMMENDATION:
The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs recommends to the Academic Board:

> THAT the Master of Science in Applied Computing (M.Sc.A.C.) program be established within the Faculty of Arts and Science, commencing September 2010.