



TO: **Academic Board**

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DATE: December 1, 2006

AGENDA ITEM: 14

APPENDIX 'J' TO
REPORT NUMBER 147
OF THE ACADEMIC
BOARD
January 11, 2007

ITEM IDENTIFICATION

Faculty of Information Studies: Revised Constitution

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION

Section 5.2.2 of the Academic Board's terms of reference calls for new or revised divisional constitutions to be considered by the Board, and confirmed by the Executive Committee. Amendments to By-laws are approved by divisional councils.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN

The current Constitution of the Faculty of Information Studies was approved by Faculty Council on November 21, 2006; the previous version was last approved by Governing Council on December 11, 2001.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The revised constitution reflects changes in governance at the School of Graduate Studies, which resulted in devolution of responsibility to the Faculty for minor and major changes to courses and programs, with oversight and approvals, as appropriate, now provided by the FIS Programs Committee.
- Another significant change is to the FIS Committees' structure, specifically in the number, composition and mandate of Committees. Committees are now governed by the Bylaws of Council rather than embedded in the Constitution. This will allow for greater flexibility and agility in FIS Committee needs in the future.
- Representation from many FIS constituencies was expanded on Council Committees, in particular student representation, and the addition of members from different programs and units at FIS.
- The revised Constitution and Bylaws were developed firstly by the FIS Executive Committee and subsequently with input requested and received through verbal and electronic means from faculty, students, staff and external representatives. The proposals generated lively discussion at a Special Council meeting specifically called for this purpose, and the new Constitution and Bylaws were approved by FIS Council on November 21, 2006.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: None

RECOMMENDATIONS

THAT the Constitution of the Faculty of Information Studies, approved by the Faculty Council on November 21, 2006, be approved.