



TO: Planning and Budget Committee

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DATE: October 15, 2009

AGENDA ITEM: 13

ITEM IDENTIFICATION: Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering and School of Graduate Studies: Closure of the Master of Engineering in Telecommunications (M.Eng.Tel.)

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Planning and Budget Committee advises the Academic Board on the planning and resource implications of plans and proposals to establish, disestablish or significantly restructure academic programs. Implications might include significant planning and budgetary changes within the significant effects on other divisions, the University as a whole and the public.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

Governing Council approved the establishment of the M.Eng.Tel. on January 25, 1999.

HIGHLIGHTS:

The Edward S. Rogers Sr. Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering established the Master of Engineering in Telecommunications (M.Eng.Tel.) in 1997 to provide an innovative program that built on its strengths. The program is a professional self-funded masters program. In the past five years, there has been a change in scope of industrial demand for professionals in this area with a resulting declining interest for the program. The Department's expanded Master of Engineering (M.Eng.) now offers an opportunity to explore some of M.Eng.Tel. scope within its program.

The proposed closure has been discussed within the department and with the program's Advisory Committee that includes members of the professional community. There are no students currently enrolled in the program. The program closure was discussed at the Applied Science and Engineering Faculty Council on May 27, 2009 and there was general agreement for the closure. The program closure was approved by the School of Graduate Studies Graduate Education Council on May 19, 2009 and by the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs on September 15, 2009.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

There are no financial implications resulting from the closure of the program.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Planning and Budget Committee concurs with the recommendation of the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs:

THAT the proposal from the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering and School of Graduate Studies to close the Master of Engineering in Telecommunications (M.Eng.Tel.) program at the University of Toronto be approved, effective immediately.