



# University of Toronto

OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

SPONSOR: Edith Hillan  
CONTACT INFO: edith.hillan@utoronto.ca

DATE: January 9, 2006

AGENDA ITEM: 5(a)

## **ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

**Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering: Proposal for Minor Program structure.**

## **JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Committee has authority to approve changes to curriculum within established degree programs that can be accomplished with existing resources and are not major.

## **PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

The Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering (APSC) proposes to introduce a formal definition for the structure of minor programs of study for students within the Faculty. The Faculty would develop and pursue the approval of APSC minor programs, such as bioengineering, which would be available to students enrolled in a substantially distinct engineering-degree program or Option therein. The proposed minor programs within the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering will not be a requirement for the degree but an opportunity for certification of program completion in addition to the usual degree requirements.

The aim of the minor course of study is to allow engineering students to have their efforts and success in a concentrated area of study formally recognized. Minors will allow a student to focus on areas both within and beyond the traditional boundaries of the discipline of engineering. Successfully completed minors will be acknowledged on a student's transcript. Minors will generally involve students from multiple programs and be either cross-departmental or cross faculty and will be a vehicle to address the Faculty's strategic objective to increase the extent of multidisciplinary offered to APSC students.

A minor program recognized and approved by the Faculty would consist of a set of courses in a subject area that is substantially distinct from a student's chosen engineering-degree program or Option therein, and that meets the following requirements:

1. The minor must consist of a minimum of six (6) courses\*;
2. The minor must include at least two (2) courses at the third- and fourth-year level;
3. The minor must include at least two (2) foundational courses\*\*, of which at least one must be specified;
4. The minor must include at least two (2) courses which require a foundational course as a prerequisite or corequisite; and

5. The minor must not include more than one (1) program or Option core course; a thesis or a design-project course will not be considered a program or Option core course (for the purposes of this definition).

\* A “course” is defined as a one-term course or its equivalent.

\*\*A “foundational course” is a course declared to be foundational for the subject area of the minor; unless otherwise specified, a foundational course is an elective course to be chosen from a limited suite of courses declared as foundational.

The structure of a minor as outlined above is in line with definitions for minors offered through the Faculty of Arts and Science at St. George, UTM and UTSC. Unlike within the Faculty Arts & Science, however, where the Faculty uses programs as a degree requirement the proposed minor programs within the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering will not be a requirement for the degree but an opportunity for certification of program completion in addition to the usual degree requirements.

The proposed Minor structure was thoroughly reviewed by the Faculty’s Curriculum Committee that includes representatives from each undergraduate Program and approved by Executive Committee on November 9 and Faculty Council on November 23, 2005.

**FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:**

The offering of minor programs will be possible through existing resources within the Faculty.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs approve:

THAT the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering establish a Minor program structure as per the stated requirements.