



TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs
SPONSOR: Cheryl Regehr, Vice-Provost, Academic Programs
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DATE: September 4, 2009
AGENDA ITEM: 7

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 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:

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 with the aim of providing an innovative program that built on the strengths of its participating units to provide a professional master's program. The program is self-funded. 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 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 School of Graduate Studies Graduate Education Council approved the program closure on May 19, 2009.

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

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 Academic Board:

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 be approved, effective immediately.