

FACULTY COUNCIL



FACULTY OF APPLIED
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

To: Edith Hillan, Vice-Provost, Academic

Cc: Helen Lasthiotakis, Director, Policy and Planning

Date: April 11 2005

Re: Deletion of Options within the Computer Engineering Program in the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering

Background:

The popularity of options in Communications Network, Computer Hardware Systems and Software Engineering offered to students in the fourth year of the Computer Engineering program has declined since their introduction in 1999-2000. As can be seen from the attached spreadsheet, enrolment peaked for these options at 71 in 2000-2001 but has now declined to 40 students in 2004-2005.


With the downturn in the IT sector, we have seen enrolment in the Computer Engineering program decline significantly over the last three years. Across all years, the ratio of Electrical Engineering students to Computer Engineering students is roughly 2 to 1. There is every indication that Computer Engineering enrolment will not increase next year. Therefore, the option approach is not viable. Furthermore, maintaining the option structure would severely limit flexibility of choices in required courses. Students have indicated that the rigid structure of the options has very limited appeal.

The cost of administering the options is significant. Conflict-free schedules for the required courses had to be constructed for the three options and tracking requirements within the options and handling student requests to transfer in/out have also proven to be labour intensive.

Finally, the Electrical and Computer Engineering has introduced a more flexible curriculum and its final rollout in September 2005-2006 will allow students many opportunities to set up areas of concentration, including the three areas associated with the Options. Maintaining the option structure would severely limit flexibility of choice, as there were a large number of required courses within the options.

The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering has concluded, both in terms of enrolment data as well as curriculum development that the Computer Engineering Program Options no longer serve a useful purpose and should be eliminated.

Faculty Council approved elimination of these options at a Special Meeting held on February 8th, 2005.


David Kuhn
Chair, Curriculum Committee

ENROLLMENT NUMBERS IN COMPUTER ENGINEERING OPTIONS

YEAR	TERM	CPE ENROL (general)		SOFTWARE		HARDWARE		COMMUNICATIONS	
		Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time	Full Time	Part Time
1998-1999	Fall	111	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Spring	111	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
1999-2000	Fall	53	4	22	5	20	3	24	3
	Spring	59	5	21	5	20	3	19	3
2000-2001	Fall	110	2	17	1	5	1	49	2
	Spring	121	3	14	1	8	1	38	2
2001-2002	Fall	129	5	14	3	20	1	15	1
	Spring	125	6	14	4	20	0	14	1
2002-2003	Fall	155	9	32	1	23	1	5	2
	Spring	150	15	32	1	23	2	5	2
2003-2004	Fall	162	4	12	3	21	1	7	0
	Spring	150	13	11	2	21	1	7	0
2004-2005	Fall	117	10	16	1	12	0	11	0
	Spring	114	11	16	1	12	0	11	0