



TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

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

DATE: November 7, 2008

AGENDA ITEM: 7

ITEM IDENTIFICATION:

Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering: Engineering Science Degree Renaming

JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:

The Committee on Academic Policy and Program has authority to make recommendations concerning policy matters affecting earned degrees.

PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:

HIGHLIGHTS:

The Faculty is very proud of the Engineering Science Program and its graduates. Very few engineering schools around the world offer such a unique program as Engineering Science, in addition to a full suite of Engineering Programs, as is the case in the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering at the University of Toronto.

Currently, all graduates from the Faculty, including Engineering Science graduates, receive the following designation on their diploma:

Bachelor of Applied Science, B.A.Sc.

The proposal is to change the designation on the diploma for graduates of the Engineering Science Program to read:

Bachelor of Applied Science in Engineering Science, B.A.Sc. in Engineering Science

The Engineering Science Program shares elements of the core Engineering Programs, but is distinct in many respects, as outlined in the appended degree level expectations, with the key differences being that the Engineering Science Program:

- Is designed and delivered at a level that is more academically demanding than the core Engineering programs;
- Contains more mathematics, science and engineering science than the core Engineering Programs, with greater focus on deriving results using a first principles approach;
- Has a distinct "2+2" curriculum structure, namely a 2-year foundation curriculum followed by a 2-year specialization curriculum in a diverse range of fields or Majors, many of which are unique to the Engineering Science program;
- Requires that all students complete an independent research-based thesis project.

Engineering Science is not a discipline, like Chemical Engineering, but is distinct at the Program level, where students choose their discipline (or "Major") in Years 3 and 4. Currently the Program is often described as being "enriched" or "accelerated". The Faculty considers that there would be many benefits to making it more clear to prospective students and their parents, graduate schools and employers, and the public in general that the Faculty in fact offers two very distinct Programs. The proposal is a move towards acknowledging this fact in a very clear way by offering two different degree designations.

This proposal has been developed with extensive consultation. In 2006, the Division of Engineering Science held a town hall meeting for Engineering Science Faculty Council and Engineering Society student representatives to discuss this degree recognition idea and ways to recognize the Faculty's Engineering Science graduates. Students were unanimous in their wish to see some sort of recognition to distinguish their degree but at the same time wanted to retain the historical connection to the BAsc. It was felt that the renaming of the degree as described in the proposal above would accomplish this best.

The proposal has the support of faculty, alumni and students and has the unanimous support of the Faculty's Chairs and Directors. It was approved by the Applied Science and Engineering Faculty Council on Monday February 26, 2007.

During the 2007-08 academic year the Faculty approved degree level expectations for both degrees, Bachelor of Applied Science and the proposed Bachelor of Applied Science in Engineering Science (Attachment 1).

FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:

Currently enrolled Engineering Science students would have the choice of receiving either the BAsc or BAsc in Engineering Science. The change in degree name would not be retroactive for students who have already graduated from the program.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs recommend to Academic Board:

THAT the degree name for students graduating from the Engineering Science Program in the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering be changed from Bachelor of Applied Science to Bachelor of Applied Science in Engineering Science, effective for graduates receiving their degree in June 2009.