



THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

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July 22, 2009

To: Phyllis M. Wise, Provost
Douglas J. Wadden, Executive Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Planning

From: Gerald J. Baldasty, Vice Provost and Dean
James S. Antony, Associate Vice Provost and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Re: Computing and Software Systems Program Review

This memorandum represents the Graduate School's closure in its facilitation of the five-year review of the Computing and Software Systems Program offered by the Institute of Technology at the UW Tacoma. We would like to note that, since the end of the review site-visit, the Institute of Technology has begun to take positive steps to improve and strengthen the academic unit in areas of concern that were identified in the review. The B.S. in Information Technology and Systems is on the Higher Education Coordinating Board's agenda for approval in July 2009.

More detailed comments on the program can be found in the documents referred to below. The review included the following milestones and documentation:

- Computing and Software Systems Program self-study (September 1, 2007)
- Charge meeting between review committee and administrators (September 25, 2007)
- Site visit (November 5-6, 2007)
- Review committee report (December 21, 2008)
- Computing and Software Systems Program response to the report (February 14, 2008)
- Graduate School Council consideration of Review (April 3, 2008)

The review committee consisted of:

Larry Snyder, Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, (Chair)
Frank Cioch, Professor, Computing and Software Systems Program, UW Bothell
Karen Landenburger, Professor, Nursing Program, UW Tacoma
Jorge Novillo, Professor, Computer Science Department, School of Information
Systems and Engineering, SUNY Institute of Technology
Rajendra Raj, Professor, Department of Computer Science, Rochester Institute of Technology

At the time of the review, the committee found the Institute to be among the UW Tacoma academic units which have been a "transformational asset to Tacoma." The faculty has made significant progress in developing solid undergraduate and graduate degree programs that are responsive to the South Sound region's educational needs. Institute programs attract both traditional and non-traditional student populations; students expressed satisfaction with their education experiences and the faculty. The Institute interacts closely with and enjoys strong local industry support. An Industrial Advisory Board was created to formally establish the Institute's relationship with local industry.

Review Committee's Recommendations

The committee made recommendations within three areas: shared mission and vision, department culture, and promotion and tenure:

1. Adopt a moratorium on the establishment of new programs; consolidation is worthy of consideration.
2. Replace the hierarchical, top-heavy administrative structure with a more open, egalitarian, and communicative form of Institute governance that encourages contributions and attracts commitments.
3. Define and embrace a shared mission and shared vision of the Institute and its programs.
4. Hire faculty to teach across programs rather than assigning them to "degree slots."
5. Increase collaboration with the Industry Advisory Board, especially in regards to research.
6. Define the Institute's criteria for tenure (in accordance with the APT guidelines), focusing on realistic expectations for teaching, research and service, respect all forms of scholarship generally recognized in the field, and ensure that all faculty accept the criteria.
7. Commit the Institute to formal mentoring of teaching for all junior faculty.
8. Expand the Institute's horizons beyond the South Sound to embrace southwest Washington to the Columbia.
9. Consider changing the name of the Computer Software Systems degree to Computer Science and Systems, though this is not urgent.

Council Recommendations

The Graduate School Council made the following recommendations which support those of the review.

- The Computing and Software Systems undergraduate and graduate degree programs should be continued under "provisional status", with the next review in three years, specifically in 2011-2012.
- The review should respond to the committee's recommendations outlined in the report.
- The Institute's self-study should include appropriate data and evaluation that addresses progress on the areas identified as concerns. The review format and site visit structure will be determined.
- The Council supported the UW Tacoma Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs' recommendation that the faculty should move forward with the new undergraduate Information Technology program.

We concur with the Council's comments and recommendations.

- c: Patricia Spakes, Chancellor, UW Tacoma
Beth Rushing, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UW Tacoma
John Sahr, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Academic Affairs
Orlando Baiocchi, Professor and Director, Institute of Technology, UW Tacoma
Computing and Software Systems Review Committee
Graduate School Council
Augustine McCaffery, Senior Academic Program Specialist, The Graduate School
Jake Faleschini, President, Graduate and Professional Student Senate