TO: The Academic Senate
FROM: The Committee on Academic Planning and Review (CAPR)
SUBJECT: Approval of the modification of the M. S. in Telecommunication Systems to an M.S. in Computer Networks
PURPOSE: For Action by the Academic Senate
ACTION REQUESTED: That the Academic Senate approve the modification of the M. S. in Telecommunications Systems to an M. S. in Computer Networks

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The M.S. in Telecommunications Systems has been evolving from its original structure towards the structure now being formally requested. In light of the rapidly changing nature of the field of study, this is a logical progression. Originally, this degree was structured with two options, one in management and one in computer systems, and was administered through both the Department of Accounting and Computer Information Systems and the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. The College of Business discontinued its Telecommunications program including the M. S. in Telecommunications Systems, option in Telecommunications Management, and all supporting courses, as was previously approved on May 5, 2005 (see 04-05 CAPR 13).

The entire program is now under the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science and will “give students current knowledge in telecommunications core technology and problem solving experience in designing and implementing telecommunication systems” under the umbrella of computer networks. The program administrative and name changes are appropriate for the state of the computing field today. The M. S. Telecommunications/Computer Technologies committee chose this route after a consideration of student interests, current programs, industry needs, and resources. This move also reflects general trends in universities, which normally house these programs in their computer departments. Several new courses have been created to substitute for the discontinued College of Business Courses and in this final iteration, there will be one new course open to M. S. students in Computer Science. This issue was discussed at the CAPR meeting on Nov 15th and approved by an email vote.

RECOMMENDATION
That the Academic Senate approve the modification of the M. S. in Telecommunications Systems to an M. S. in Computer Networks.

DATE OF THE PROGRAM’S FIVE-YEAR REVIEW:
As this program is a continuation of an existing program, we recommend that the current five-year cycle of review be maintained, making the next review 2008-2009.

Cc Leann Christianson
Cc Michael Leung