



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Executive Committee of Faculty Council (September 19, 2014)  
Faculty Council (October 8, 2014)

**From:** Dr. Graeme Norval  
Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee

**Date:** August 12, 2014

**Re:** Major Curriculum Changes for the 2014-2015 Academic Year

## REPORT CLASSIFICATION

This is a major policy matter that will be considered by the Executive Committee for endorsing and forwarding to Faculty Council for vote as a regular motion (requiring a simple majority of members present and voting to carry).

## BACKGROUND

The Undergraduate Curriculum Committee is tasked with managing the curriculum change process for the Faculty. This report summarizes program course changes for the upcoming academic year.

## STRUCTURE

The Department of Chemical Engineering and Applied Chemistry has requested to make curriculum changes for the upcoming academic year.

### *CHE466F*

It is proposed that the course CHE466F Bioprocess Engineering be cancelled. The current enrolment is eight, four of whom are SWB students. Students taking CHE466F in 2014 will be offered a place in JCC1313 Environmental Microbiology, or other Bioengineering Minor courses.

It has been a struggle to mount the course; there is no permanent instructor. The instructors in the bioprocess engineering area are working on revisioning several courses. This is the first step in the process of reinvigorating the bioengineering courses in the program.

### *Merger of CHE298F and CHE297Y*

Chemical Engineering has run two communications courses in the second year. The CHE298F Communications course has been successful for many years. The CHE297Y Communications Portfolio course has not been as successful, in part because the assignments have not been linked to the core curriculum, and in part due to the high workload in second year Chem Eng.

It is proposed that the two courses become integrated into one course, and that the course be extended over two terms (a Y course). Staff from the Engineering Communication Program (ECP) will be integrated into this core program communications course.

In term 2S, the students have a design project (CHE230S Environmental Chemistry) with a written report and oral presentation. The combined course allows for instruction and support on the communication aspects of the design course, with consistent feedback on their communication skills over the course of two terms, as they are with the same instructor/TA for both terms.

The Communications course is run in small sections (six sections for 150 students), which allows for high levels of student feedback.

### **PROGRAM(S)**

All relevant programs are involved in these changes, and the impact on students in the various programs has been considered.

### **PROCESS AND CONSULTATION**

This proposal has been reviewed and approved by the Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, which is comprised of faculty representatives from each undergraduate program; undergraduate students; the Vice-Dean, Undergraduate Studies; the Chair of First Year; the Associate Dean, Cross-Disciplinary Programs; and the Registrar. The Committee meets regularly and reviews changes to the undergraduate curriculum.

### **RECOMMENDATION AND MOTION FOR FACULTY COUNCIL**

THAT the proposed curriculum changes for the 2014-2015 academic year set out in this report be approved.