



University of Toronto

FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

To: Faculty Council

From: Curriculum Committee Report # 3213

Date: January 28, 2008

Item: Engineering Science – Proposal to rename ‘Option’ to ‘Major’

Recommendation:

For students graduating from the Engineering Science Program in the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering, THAT their ‘**Option**’ be renamed their ‘**Major**’ on their official academic transcript to properly recognize the field they have chosen to focus on in Years 3 and 4 of their Program, effective June, 2008.

Highlights:

In the Engineering Science Program, students pursue their field of specialization after Year 2 by choosing an ‘Option’ to study in Years 3 and 4. For students in the other engineering programs, this decision is made upon entry into Year 1 or at the end of Year 1 for students entering the Faculty via Track One.

It is proposed that the Faculty make a change to the way it designates on the transcript the ‘Option’ an Engineering Science student chooses to better reflect to the outside world, e.g. employers and graduate schools, that this is in fact the student’s major field of study within the Engineering Science Program.

Currently, the transcript of an Engineering Science graduate shows the degree name followed by the ‘Option’ choice in the following way:

BASc-Engineering Sci (Elect Opt)

where the ‘Option’ selected for this example is the Electrical Engineering Option of Engineering Science.

The proposal is to change this to read:

BASc-Engineering Science (Major in Electrical Engineering)

For students in the Faculty's other engineering programs, the transcript reads, for example:

BASc-Chemical Engineering

and therefore the student's major field of study is already reflected on the transcript.

Under this proposal, it is worth noting that for the Engineering Science Program the word 'Option' will continue to be used to refer to the various choices Engineering Science students have available to them prior to entering Years 3 and 4. The new wording will be used only on transcripts once students have made their 'Option' choice.

It is proposed that the current 'Options' be renamed and designated on the transcript as follows:

BASc - Engineering Science (Major in Aerospace Engineering)
BASc - Engineering Science (Major in Biomedical Engineering)
BASc - Engineering Science (Major in Computer Engineering)
BASc - Engineering Science (Major in Electrical Engineering)
BASc - Engineering Science (Major in Infrastructure Engineering)
BASc - Engineering Science (Major in Manufacturing Systems Engineering)
BASc - Engineering Science (Major in Nanoengineering)
BASc - Engineering Science (Major in Engineering Physics)
BASc - Engineering Science (Major in Energy Systems Engineering)

Previous Action / Consultations Undertaken

This proposal was first brought forward to the Faculty's Deans, Chairs and Directors on February 4, 2007 and received broad support. It was felt that this should formally come through the Faculty's Curriculum Committee for approval. At its February 6th meeting, the Curriculum Committee asked that information be collected from the CEAB to determine if they had any issues with this proposal. In May, a letter was sent by Dean Amon advising the CEAB of this proposal and asking if they had any comments. On October 17th, Dean Amon received a response from the CEAB indicating (i) that the Board had no adverse comments on this proposal, and (ii) that 'major' would be interpreted to mean the same as 'option' and therefore their 'statement of interpretation' concerning options would apply. This information was brought back to Curriculum Committee at their November 21st meeting. There was some discussion of whether 'Major' or 'Specialist' should be used, given that these terms, along with 'Minor', are used in the Faculty of Arts and Science to describe different levels of concentration. The general sense was that 'Major' was a more appropriate designation because it is a term that is more widely recognized and understood outside the University.

Financial and/or Planning Implications:

There are no significant financial resources required to implement this proposal.