ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation	☐
Decision	☒
Discussion/Direction	☐
Information	☐

DATE: 27 June 2023

FROM: Graduate Studies Committee

SUBJECT: Major Program Modification – Master of Information Technology Security

COMMITTEE MANDATE:
In accordance with the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) Terms of Reference, GSC has the responsibility "to examine proposals for new graduate degree and diploma programs, major changes to existing programs and to recommend their approval, as appropriate, to the Academic Council".

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:
That, pursuant to the recommendation of the Graduate Studies Committee, Academic Council hereby approves the Major Program Modifications to the Master of Information Technology Security program.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:
The Faculty has proposed the addition of a course-based option of two electives to the MITS Artificial Intelligence Field.

Currently students in MITS AI can take Capstone I/ II or an Internship. The course option was not originally considered for MITS-AIS program, as this area was still considered an emerging and very young field of study where most built their expertise from research projects and industry experience. Very few courses or academic programs would cover the intersection of AI and security. The situation is different today, with the applications of AI in security growing quickly, and academia and industry both working to expand their offerings in this field.

The course-based option is particularly attractive for industry professionals who intend to update their knowledge and/or upgrade their profile, which forms an important target group for MITS and MITS-AIS programs. For many working professionals, the option of

internship in another company may not be readily available. Given the huge increase in the number of MITS program intake over the past few years (from ~ 15 to > 80), there are not enough capstone projects or internship positions for all applicants. This new option would also facilitate course selection for part-time students.

As part of this change, students would be able to take two elective courses in place of an Internship or Capstone I/II. Students cannot take one capstone course and one elective course.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:
N/A

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:
Graduate Studies Committee: 23 May 2023
Faculty Council: 20 December 2022
Graduate Education Committee: 14 December 2022

The MITS area discussed this proposal with consultation from administrative staff who assist with the MITS AI program, students, and internship processes.

NEXT STEPS:
- Pending the recommendation of GSC, the changes will be presented to Academic Council for approval.
- Once approved by Academic Council, the changes will be included in the 2023-2024 Academic Calendar.

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:
- [Major Program Modification proposal](#)