



ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

SESSION:

Public

ACTION REQUESTED:

Decision
 Discussion/Direction
 Information

TO: Academic Council

DATE: 26 November 2019

PRESENTED BY: Lori Livingston, Provost and Vice President, Academic

SUBJECT: Formal Closure of the Bachelor of Engineering in Energy Systems Engineering Program

MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:

- That pursuant to the recommendation of the Provost, Academic Council hereby approves the closure of the Bachelor of Engineering in Energy Systems Engineering Program, effective immediately.

MANDATE:

- In accordance with LGC 1127, August 2005, “if, in the event of academic weakness, declining enrolment, financial exigency, or other circumstances, the Provost believes that it may be necessary to close or substantially reconfigure a Degree Program, he/she shall inform the Academic Council in a timely way of his/her concerns.” and “shall present a recommendation to the Academic Council to close or reconfigure the Program”.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

- The Energy Systems Engineering program was the first stand-alone program of its kind in Canada and was specifically designed to give students the skills needed to succeed in this dynamic field of study
- The program did not meet accreditation standards, leading to consistently low student enrolment in the program
- No students have been admitted since the Fall term of 2013
- There are no current students in the program
- The program was scheduled to undergo a program review in 2013-2014, however, the review was not completed.

RESOURCES REQUIRED AND IMPLICATIONS:

- There are no resources required to close this program

- There are no direct Faculty implications. All faculty members have been teaching full course loads in the Faculty of Energy Systems and Nuclear Science's (FESNS) other undergraduate and graduate programs while this program has been inactive
- There are no impacts to non-academic human resources, as the program has not been active
- Ten inactive courses, specific to the program, will be closed
- There are no active students, nor are there any prospective students for the program and there are no implications on enrolment in these or other programs
- It is expected that there will be positive impacts on the Faculty and the University with the clarity provided by the closure of this program. In addition, existing resources may be directed to new and existing active programs
- There are no impacts on external agencies

CONSULTATION:

- In accordance with the currently active Policy (LCG 1127) governing the closure of a program, the following consultation and approval path is required:
 - After notification of the need to close a program, the Dean of the Faculty in which the program resides will seek the advice of the Faculty Council
 - Whether or not agreement is reached with the Dean and Faculty Council, the Provost shall present a recommendation to the Academic Council
- While this program resides within FESNS, as an Engineering program it was deemed necessary to include the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science (FEAS) in the consultation path
- Program closure was presented to FESNS Faculty Council in May 2019
- Program closure was submitted to FEAS in August 2019 and presented electronically to FEAS Faculty Council in September 2019

COMPLIANCE WITH POLICY/LEGISLATION:

- The current Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP, June 2011) requires programs to be reviewed every eight years, in accordance with the Ontario Universities Council on Quality Assurance Quality Assurance Framework
- LGC 1127 requires the Provost to make recommendations for program closure in cases of "declining enrolment, financial exigency, or other circumstances"

TRANSITION AND NEXT STEPS:

- Students have not been admitted to the program since the Fall 2013 term and all students have completed the program
- The program will be closed/removed from any print or electronic publications immediately
- All student communications and transitioning have been completed. There are five (5) students that started the program but did not finish. If they applied for readmission, the request would be handled on a case-by-case basis and readmission would potentially be offered in another Faculty of Energy Systems and Nuclear Science program, dependent on the number of and which courses remain to be completed, and the interests/career path of the (currently non-active) student

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:

- Major Program Modification – Removal of Program or Program Component Proposal Brief



Major Program Modification – Removal of Program or Program Component

Faculty of Energy Systems and Nuclear Science

Bachelor of Engineering – Energy Systems Engineering

1. INTRODUCTION

a. Brief background on the existing program

The Energy Systems Engineering program was the first stand-alone program of its kind in Canada. This degree was specifically designed to give graduates the skills needed to succeed in this dynamic field of study. Students examined and studied all forms of energy including:

- Fossil fuels;
- Geothermal;
- Hydro;
- Nuclear;
- Solar; and
- Wind.

This program enabled graduates to generate complete system designs from small-scale devices to large-scale systems and to communicate effectively with other engineers.

b. Rationale for the removal of the program or program component

The program did not meet accreditation standards, therefore leading to the enrolment for the program to be weak. This program has not admitted students since Fall term of 2013 and the program had consistently low enrolment numbers. Due to low enrolment numbers and no longer admitting students the program was not reviewed and therefore is recommended for closure.

2. IMPLICATIONS

a. Faculty members

No direct implications. All Faculty members have been able to teach full course loads in the Faculty of Energy Systems and Nuclear Science's other undergraduate and graduate programs.

b. Non-academic human resources

No impact, as the program has not been active.

c. Courses

Courses that are affected, with date of last offering and last enrolment:

- ENGR 2360U – Electric Power Systems (last offering: Winter 2016 – 3)

- ENGR 3260U – Introduction to Energy Systems (last offering: Fall 2016 – 6)
- ENGR 3350U – Control Systems (last offering: Fall 2015 – 15)
- ENGR 2330U – Mechanical Equipment and Systems (last offering: Winter 2017 – 3)
- ENGR 3730U – Solar Energy Technologies (last offering: Winter 2018 – 1)
- ENGR 3830U – Wind Energy Systems (last offering: Winter 2017 – 6)
- ENGR 4410U – Fossil Fuel Energy Conversion (last offering: Fall 2016 - 21)
- ENGR 4470U – Hydrogen Power Systems (last offering: Fall 2016 - 19)
- ENGR 4480U – Emerging Energy Systems (last offering: Winter 2018 – 4)
- ENGR 4530U – Hydroelectric Power Systems (last offering: Winter 2018 – 3)

These courses will be formally closed.

d. Students (*current and prospective*)

There are currently no active students in this program, nor are there prospective students.

e. Enrolments (*anticipated impacts on other programs, if applicable*)

No direct implications on enrolment. If any, there may be positive impacts in that more resources can be directed to new and existing active programs.

f. External agencies (*if applicable*)

No direct implications.

3. TIMELINES

a. Proposed Date of Program or Program Component Removal/Close

Students have not been admitted to this program since Fall 2013. The program will be closed/removed immediately.

b. Proposed Plan of Action

Students have not been admitted to this program since the Fall term of 2013, so all major communication and transitioning has already been completed. There are five (5) students that started the program but did not finish. If they applied for readmission, the request would be handled on a case-by-case basis and readmission would potentially be offered in another Faculty of Energy Systems and Nuclear Science program, dependent on the number of and which courses remain to be completed, and the interests/career path of the (currently non-active) student.