ACADEMIC COUNCIL REPORT

ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommendation ☐
Decision ☐
Discussion/Direction ☐
Information ☒

DATE: 25 February 2020

FROM: Undergraduate Studies Committee

SUBJECT: Minor Program Adjustment – Bachelor of Information Technology in Networking and IT Security and pathways

COMMITTEE MANDATE:
In accordance with Section 1. b) of the Undergraduate Studies Committee (USC) Terms of Reference, USC has the responsibility "to approve minor program adjustments and report them to Academic Council for information."

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:
The Faculty is proposing to remove the required IT Skills Workshop (ITSW) courses from the 4-year Networking and IT Security program map and the Networking and IT Security CSTU Pathway map. Additionally, they are proposing to replace the current BUSI 2120U Accounting for IT course with a Business Elective and change INFR 1100U and INFR 2140U to the newly added INFR 1101U and INFR 2141U courses.

Currently the zero-credit ITSW includes coursework and a 3-hour/week block in the student schedules. This workshop no longer makes sense with the flow of the program.

After consultation with faculty and students it has been determined that the Accounting for IT course does not provide the benefit to the students that was hoped. To ensure that students are getting the full benefit of being in a Faculty of Business and IT and that they are learning how strategic IT decisions can create value for a business, the Faculty would like to offer the students a selection of relevant business elective courses they can choose from based on interest. This will have the added benefit of making the program more flexible.

Currently students are required to register only in specific sections of Programming which teaches different materials depending on the major in which the students are registered. Students cannot work directly with students in the other sections and they have different projects and assessments. Using the new courses will alleviate confusion for students and staff during registration and make the course more cohesive as all students in the course will be learning the same material regardless of the sections in which they are enrolled.

RESOURCES REQUIRED:
Removal of ITSW will save four course loads per year. Removal of BUSI 2120 will save one course load per year. The ~80 will be absorbed into other BUSI electives that were already being offered. Change in programming courses will have a net-zero effect as the Faculty is replacing sections on a one to one basis.

TRANSITION PLAN:
These changes will be implemented for the 2020-2021 academic year.

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL:
USC: January 21st, 2020
Faculty Council Approval: December 11th, 2019
Curriculum Committee Approval: December 3rd, 2019

NEXT STEPS:
- These changes will be included in the 2020-2021 Academic Calendar

SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:
- Minor Program Adjustment Proposal

- New courses: INFR 1101U, INFR 2141U