

## UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES COMMITTEE REPORT

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### ACTION REQUESTED:

|                      |                                     |
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| Recommendation       | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Decision             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Discussion/Direction | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Information          | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

**DATE:** 16 June 2026

**FROM:** Centre for Institutional Quality Enhancement

**SUBJECT:** Cyclical Program Review - 18-Month Follow-up – Bachelor of Information Technology – Networking and Information Technology Security

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### COMMITTEE MANDATE:

In accordance with Article 8 of the Ontario Tech University Institutional Quality Assurance Process (IQAP) Cyclical Review and Auditing Procedures, eighteen months following the completion of a program review the Dean will prepare a brief follow up report and “A summary of the progress report will be approved by the appropriate standing committee of Academic Council”. This summary report will be reported to Academic Council for information and subsequently posted to the Ontario Tech corporate website.

### MOTION FOR CONSIDERATION:

That USC hereby approves the 18-Month Follow-Up Report from the Bachelor of Information Technology – Networking and Information Technology Security Cyclical Program Review, as presented.

### BACKGROUND/CONTEXT & RATIONALE:

Eighteen months after the completion of a program review the Faculty is asked to report on the progress to date in implementing the agreed upon plans for improvement. The report is sent to the Academic Resource Committee for review and further follow-up, if required.

### RESOURCES REQUIRED:

The Faculty's plans to address any remaining resource needs are outlined in the 18-Month report. Information and support will be required from various areas of the University in order to implement the plan as originally agreed.

### COMPLIANCE WITH POLICY/LEGISLATION:

The Ontario Universities Council on Quality Assurance (Quality Council), established by the Council of Ontario Universities in July 2010, is responsible for oversight of the Quality Assurance Framework processes for Ontario Universities. The Council operates at arm's length from both Ontario's publicly assisted universities and Ontario's government. Under the Quality Assurance

Framework, academic programs must undergo a cyclical review at least every eight years following their implementation. The purpose of the cyclical program review is to critically examine the components of a program with the assistance of outside reviewers with the goal of continuous improvement. A program review's purpose is not solely to demonstrate the positive aspects of the program, but also to outline opportunities that will lead to improvements for the future.

**NEXT STEPS:**

Following the approval of USC, the report will be sent to Academic Council for information and posted to the University's website.

**SUPPORTING REFERENCE MATERIALS:**

- 18-Month Report Summary



## 18-MONTH FOLLOW-UP REPORT Cyclical Program Review

**FACULTY:** Faculty of Business and Information Technology  
**PROGRAM:** Bachelor of Information Technology – Networking and Information Technology Security  
**DATE:** April 20, 2026  
**PREPARED BY:** Dr. Carolyn McGregor

This program review was completed in May 2025. The chart below outlines the progress that has been made in implementing the agreed upon plans for improvement.

Please provide as much detail and rationale as possible.

| Implementation Plan Action Item(s)<br>(corresponding recommendation #<br>from reviewers' report) |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Timeline                                                                                    | Status*    | Comments from Dean on progress of<br>implementation                                                                                                                                                                        |
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|                                                                                                  | Program Committee - Program and Curricular Review:                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                             |            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|                                                                                                  | <i>The Program Director with support from the Dean will complete the following by the end of the 25-26 Academic Year:</i><br><br><i>-Ensure adequate planning and structure is put in place for the NITS program committee.</i> | <i>To be completed and progress reported to the dean at the end of 25-26 academic year.</i> | CONTINUOUS | The NITS area has been meeting regularly (twice every semester) to plan adequately.<br><br>We have engaged the CEELCD (experiential) who have aided us in performing a thorough market assessment and competitive analysis |

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|  | <p><i>- Work with the Registrar's Office (RO) to gather information for market assessment and competitive analysis.</i></p> <p><i>- Ensure that the program committee meetings are routinely scheduled by the program director in order to review market assessment and competitive analysis from the RO, and curriculum upgrade incorporating new concepts and technologies.</i></p> |                                                                                                    |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|  | <p><i>-Discuss and recommend new concepts, topics, and technologies. Within our governance structure the recommended program and curriculum committee can be the same committee of all faculty in the NITS program who meet. Any items requiring approval can then proceed through governance to UEC, FC etc.</i></p>                                                                 | <p><i>To be completed and progress reported to the dean at the end of 25-26 academic year.</i></p> | IN PROGRESS | <p>The NITS area discusses curriculum at its regular meetings. In particular is considering the following new specializations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the creation of a Secure DevOps specialization to address market needs</li> <li>- The creation of an AI specialization</li> <li>- The creation of a FinTech specialization</li> </ul> <p>The NITS area performs continuous updates of course contents and objectives based on emerging trends and market requirements.</p> <p>Target is to have these new specialisations go through governance in the 2026-27 academic year.</p> |
|  | <p><i>-Lead the Program Committee in a review of strengths and weaknesses and a threat analysis leading to a report to the dean and an implementation plan to capitalize on program strengths and create</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                      | <p><i>Report to the dean to be completed by end of 25-</i></p>                                     | IN PROGRESS | <p>The NITS area has performed a SWOT analysis which is attached to guide the development of new curriculum specializations and modifications to existing courses.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

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|  | <i>strategies to mitigate risks relating to program weaknesses. This will build on the efforts already conducted as part of the cyclical program review.</i>                                                                                                                            | <i>26 academic year</i>                                                                  |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|  | <i>Examine the security curriculum and determine if changes are needed. The committee will also look into opportunities for integration of our networking and security content if possible. The current course offering do however provide students with exposure to these topics.</i>  | <i>Committee to report on any potential opportunities by end of 25-26 academic year.</i> | IN PROGRESS | <p>The NITS area is currently (in an ongoing manner) examining the security curriculum for new opportunities to enhance the offerings. In particular, instructors looking to enhance course content with AI techniques/content. A campus-wide AI in learning strategy from the university is expected.</p> <p>The expansion of the Master of IT security program including the addition of a Governance field and the addition of the new PhD in Cybersecurity has resulted in the addition of a number of specialized graduate courses in security that are often cross-listed as electives for senior undergraduate students.</p> |
|  | <i>Develop a new PLO as recommended. The PD to arrange for the Program Review Committee to make this update to the program's PLOs</i>                                                                                                                                                   | <i>December 2025</i>                                                                     | IN PROGRESS | The NITS area has commenced examining the PLO's and this will be completed by June..                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|  | <i>Review of courses and their associated tutorial and lab components to evaluate the student learning opportunities beyond the lecture components for all courses. The PD will provide the Dean with a report of this review in order to determine future resourcing requirements.</i> | <i>Committee to report by end of 25-26 academic year.</i>                                | IN PROGRESS | The Associate Dean is leading an initiative to look at labs and tutorial FBIT-wide and this NITS specific review will be part of this initiative which will be completed by end August 2026.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|  | Additional Recommendations:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                          |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|  | <i>FBIT has already received approval for a second technician that will enable the faculty to provide more</i>                                                                                                                                                                          | <i>In progress and should be</i>                                                         | COMPLETED   | We have hired this second technician. The original technician has now resigned and we have commenced a new hiring process to fill that role with                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

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|  | <i>technical support for the networking and security labs. The hiring search process for this position has already commenced.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <i>completed within weeks.</i>                                                                                        |             | the aim of them commencing by September, 2026 in time for the Fall semester.                                                                                                                        |
|  | <i>The Dean will provide mentorship and guidance to the PD, to reestablish a program advisory committee (PAC) for this program as part of our strategy to establish/reestablish such committees for all our programs.</i>                                                                                                                       | <i>PAC to be formed and meet at least once by end of 25-26 academic year</i>                                          | IN PROGRESS | The proposed membership for the PAC has been completed and approved by the Dean. First PAC meeting will occur before the end of June 2026.                                                          |
|  | <i>The Dean will provide mentorship and guidance to enable the PD for NITS to work with the Director of the Institute for Cybersecurity and Resilient Systems to grow strategic partnerships that are aligned with networking and security. Continue to leverage relationships with industry partners through well-established internships.</i> | <i>Ongoing</i>                                                                                                        | CONTINUOUS  | Several members of the Institute for Cybersecurity and Resilient Systems have been forming new industry partnerships to support our growth of industry partnerships in this area.                   |
|  | <i>The PD and the Program Committee will work on a plan to introduce Fortinet content to the technical security courses and if needed, provide the updated course information to UEC for progression through governance.</i>                                                                                                                    | <i>Committee to develop plan by end of 25-26 academic year and present to UEC if any course changes are required.</i> | COMPLETED   | We are using Fortinet lab content in courses: INFR 3600, INFR 4690 and the NITS area has evaluated the use for additional labs (none required thus far).                                            |
|  | <i>A new hire in Networking and IT Security has accepted their offer and will commence on 1st July, 2025.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <i>July 1, 2025 for new TF hire</i>                                                                                   | IN PROGRESS | We are currently performing the hiring process for this position as the prior hire had decided not to commence their position. We are currently in the shortlist interview stage for this position. |

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|  | <p><i>The new hire has direct, hands-on experience in industry-standard cybersecurity certifications and tools.</i></p> <p><i>The growth of high quality industry experienced sessionals is also a strategy of interest for the faculty . The Dean will work with the PD on a strategy to grow a pool of high quality industry experienced priority sessionals</i></p> | Ongoing for sessional hirings | CONTINUOUS | We are continually identifying qualified sessional instructors for the NITS courses on an as-needed basis. |
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**\*Process Status Legend:**

**Complete:** Accomplished action item; no further steps required.

**Continuous:** Initial action item complete but requires ongoing monitoring and/or enhancement.

**In Progress:** Progress on the action item has been initiated but is not complete at this time. Outline all steps taken in the comment's column.

**On Hold:** Unable to complete due to other dependent factor(s).

**Cancelled:** Item no longer relevant or resources unavailable.

**Additional comments:**

*(Add here any comments on the implementation of the plan for improvement – any challenges encountered, successes achieved as a result.)*

This 18-month follow-up report will be sent to the Resource Committee for review. The Committee may recommend further monitoring of outstanding items on a case-by-case basis. A summary of this report will be prepared and approved by the appropriate standing committee of Academic Council (USC/GSC), reported to Academic Council, and posted on the Ontario Tech corporate website.

**Next Scheduled Program Review: 2028-2030**