Submitted by: Keith E. Whitfield, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

CHANGE IN THE NAME OF BACHELOR OF ARTS IN INFORMATION SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY TO THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSFER TO THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors change the title of the Bachelor of Arts in Information Systems Technology (BAIST) to the Bachelor of Science in Information Technology (BSIT) and move the degree program from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to the College of Engineering, effective Fall 2019.

Background

The Department of Computer Science (CSC) in the College of Engineering currently offers three degrees. A BSCS degree in the College of Engineering and BACS and BAIST degrees in the College of Liberal Arts. The three bachelor's degree programs have a combined enrollment of over 800 majors as well as many minors. The vast majority of the students (~90%) are enrolled in the BS program due to the employment advantages offered by the BS relative to the BA.

The relatively few students at Wayne State who opt for one of the BA degrees instead of the BS degree do so primarily because of the less mathematically rigorous requirements of the programs. We believe that these students would be better served by a BS program, where there are significant and growing enrollments, rather than a BA program. Students, especially transfer students, frequently express interest in an Information Technology major when speaking with the department academic advisors. Hence, changing the name from Information Systems Technology to Information Technology will better describe the program.

Finally, moving the program from CLAS to the CoE will simplify advising, and reduce time to degree for students that decide to change majors within Computer Science. Students in CLAS are required to demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language and complete a minor, while neither are required for BS degrees in Engineering. Over the years, this has caused many complications for students moving between the BS and BA programs. Moving the program to the CoE will make it easier for students in one degree program to move to the other if they decide that is in their best interests.

Program Description

The mission of the program is to provide students with a solid foundation in both computer and information systems and business administration. Through the use of state of the art software and hardware students will learn to develop their programming skills in order to allow them to apply these learned techniques to analyze an information technology problem, evaluate possible solutions, and create a solution as part of an organizational development team. The program prepares students for careers in information system development, system organization, information system security, data base systems and analytics, and organizational analysis. Upon graduation a student is prepared for a career in information technology applications in business, industry, government, academics and the local community. In addition it provides students with opportunities to interact with professional institutions and exhibit the highest ethical standards in the practice of their profession.

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Plan for Existing Students
The vast majority of students will elect to transition to the BS IT program. However, existing students will be grandfathered and allowed to graduate under the current BA IST requirements under the University's Bulletin-in-Effect policy.

Approvals
The proposal has been approved by the College of Engineering Academic Operations Committee, Dean of the College of Engineering, and the Provost.