COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

APPROVED NOV 1 9 2008

TO: COT UNDERGRADUATE ACADEMIC COUNCIL

RECEIVED OCT 2 3 2008

FROM: ILT FACULTY

SUBJECT: NAME CHANGE FROM ISTE TO CIS

NEEDS CB APPROVAL

DATE: 8/31/2008

CC: MICHAEL L. GIBSON, DEPARTMENT CHAIR

EFFECTIVE FALL

On Friday, August 29, 2008, the ILT Undergraduate Curricula Committee voted to change the name of the Information Systems Technology Bachelor of Science degree from **Information Systems Technology (ISTE)** to **Computer Information Systems (CIS)**. The degree name change was prompted as a result of seeking ABET accreditation and the need to clarify the underlying focus of the degree.

Historical Perspective

In summer 2005, the ISTE faculty unanimously voted to pursue ABET accreditation in information systems. The merits of information systems and information technology programs were discussed during that meeting; ABET was then considering accreditation for IT programs to accompany the already existing Computer Science, Information System, and Computer Engineering ABET accredited programs of study in computing. ABET now accredits both the information systems and information technology degree programs.

The ISTE faculty spent the past 1 and ½ years producing a self-study as part of the application for ABET accreditation as an information systems program; consistent with the focus of the ISTE degree. While completing the ISTE self-study, Dr. Maryam Weiss, Executive Director of ABET, forwarded a communication that stated:

1. the ABET Accreditation Policy and Procedure Manual Section II.B.5 states that, "If a program title implies a specialization for which program criteria have been developed (**Namely IT accreditation**), the program must satisfy the applicable program criteria in addition to the general criteria."
2. the ISTE program would have to satisfy, "the CAC General Criteria and the Information Systems Program Criteria **AND** the Information Technology Program Criteria."
3. the "alternative to being required to satisfy both IS and IT criteria would be to change the name of the program to exclude the word technology."

On May 2, 2008, the ISTE faculty met to discuss the issue and determine what course to pursue. With vote of 7 to 2, the ISTE faculty voted to change the name of the program to Computer Information Systems. The faculty who registered dissenting votes explained that they were opposed to an outside organization forcing them to change the name of the program. Relative to that dissent, the ISTE faculty stated that being accredited by ABET was exceedingly more important than retaining the name of the program as ISTE. It was also explained how the CIS name was recognized

as the most historically used name for applied information systems programs across the country, likely the ISTE program at the University of Houston.

ILT Curriculum Committee Meeting

On Friday, August 29, 2008, the ILT Curriculum Committee voted 12 to 2 to change the name of the ISTE program to Computer Information Systems. At that meeting, it was explained that seeking ABET accreditation for the ISTE program required changing the name of the program to a name that did not include the phrase **Information Technology** within the name. It was also explained that the name Computer Information Systems was pedagogically sound as a title for the program relative to being the most often used name for applied information systems programs across the country. While researching titles of information systems (IS) programs, especially ABET accredited IS, the two most prominent names were Management Information Systems and Computer Information Systems (CIS). In selecting the CIS name, the ISTE and ILT faculty collectively agreed upon a name already well recognized in the IS field. As such, changing the name to CIS is pedagogically sound in addition to compliant with the wishes of ABET.

Curriculum Change Request

The ILT faculty seek to change the name of the Information Systems Technology Bachelor of Science degree to Computer Information Systems. We seek to have this change become in effect in Fall 2008 so that graduates of the program will receive transcripts with the new name on those transcripts. ABET must receive 10 transcripts of graduates of the program with the new name as part of the supporting documentation to accompany the self-study report in our application for ABET accreditation. Consequently, we ask that the CoT Undergraduate Academic Council expeditiously render a vote with regard to our request so that we can move forward with the request to the UH Undergraduate Academic Council and request a similar expeditious ruling.

Name Change Proposal Summary

The name change for the Information Systems Technology program was forced by the ruling from ABET that program titles that included information technology and information systems would either have to satisfy the requirements for both IS and IT accreditation at the same time, or the word technology would have to be dropped from the program title.
1. The term IT in the name implies information technology which is a newly minted ABET program area for accreditation.
2. IS accreditation cannot be sought separate from IT accreditation when the name includes both terms.

The ISTE program is an information systems (IS) and not an information technology (IT) program and does not seek to become an IT program, nor is capable of satisfying ABET IT accreditation requirements.

1. Seeking IT accreditation would require a large expansion of the ISTE curricula to include IT courses to satisfy ABET IT accreditation requirements.
    a. To develop and obtain approval for IT courses would consume a minimum of 2 years (development of the curriculum courses in first year followed by obtaining approval of new curriculum in the second year); delaying the accreditation process for 2 years.

2. Seeking IT accreditation would require additional faculty to teach the IT courses.
   a. To obtain new IT faculty would require the addition of new faculty lines with the request submitted to the Provost Office this year followed by recruitment of new faculty next year if new lines are granted; thus delaying accreditation by a minimum of 2 years.
3. ABET accreditation requires actual graduates of a program with that focus stamped on their degree which would minimally take 2-3 years; thus further delaying accreditation for our program

The ILT faculty have spent 2 years developing the ISTE self-study to satisfy the requirements for an ABET accredited information systems program; delaying the review of that already submitted application does not bode well since the scheduled visit by the ABET Review Team and their meetings with the President and Provost are already scheduled.

Not changing the name of the ISTE program is a fatal barrier to seeking ABET accreditation.

The proposal to change the name of the ISTE program does not contain any change in the requirements of the program. The complementary nature of the ISTE and MIS programs, one more technology oriented and the other having a strong business component, will not be affected.

A name change of the ISTE program to CIS actually helps further distinguishes the ISTE program from other computer programs at UH.
The two most prominent titles for ABET accredited IS programs are MIS and CIS.
1. Although some MIS programs exist in colleges outside of a business college; most reside in business colleges and schools, especially in research 1 universities.
2. Although some CIS programs reside in business colleges; most reside in colleges outside of business colleges and schools, i.e. technology, engineering, science & computer science colleges.
3. ABET accredited CIS programs often reside in the same university with an MIS program in a college of business (example: the MIS program in the business college at UH-Clear Lake with an ABET accredited CIS program that resides in the School of Science & Computer Engineering).

Changing the CIP code from 15000 to11.0501.00 will further distinguish the ISTE program frfom other computing programs at UH.

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UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON CENTRAL CAMPUS
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE in INFORMATION SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY

Display how proposed program(s) would appear on the Coordinating Board program inventory. Include Texas CIP code designations(s).
Bachelor of Science, major in Computer Information Systems
Relevant CIP - 11.0~~101~~.00 02
    0501

How would name(s) of program(s) appear on student diplomas?
Bachelor of Science
Computer Information Systems

How would name(s) of programs(s) appear on student transcripts?
Bachelor of Science
Computer Information Systems

Administrative unit(s) responsible for the program(s);
Information and Logistics Technology Department
College of Technology
University of Houston

Proposed date for implementation of name change for program:
December 2008

Persons to be contacted for further information about proposed program(s)
Michael L. Gibson, Chair, Information and Logistics Technology Department
713.743.4090, mlgibson@uh.edu

Robert Zant, Program Manager, Computer Information Systems Program
713.743.4073, rfzant@Central.UH.EDU

Signatures:

_____
Campus Chief Executive Officer   Date

_____
System Chief Executive Officer   Date

Governing Board approval date:

_____

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Universities Division

Nonsubstantive Degree Program Name and CIP Code Change Request

Bachelor of Science in
Computer Information Systems

University of Houston Central Campus - College of Technology

I.   I.   **Describe briefly the change request.**

The College of Technology and the Information and Logistics Technology (ILT) Department respectfully request a change in the name and CIP code for the Bachelor of Science in – Information Systems Technology, CIP code 52.1201.00, to Bachelor of Science in – Computer Information Systems, CIP code 11.0501.00.

II.   II.   **Provide a rational for the proposed change.**

In an effort to obtain additional external validation for the Information Systems Technology (ISTE) Bachelor of Science degree program, the program faculty elected to seek accreditation by ABET, Inc, the premier accrediting organization for academic programs in engineering, computer related topics, and technology. While completing the 400+ page self study report as part of the application process, we discovered that the Computer Accreditation Committee for ABET established a policy in Spring 2008 that all programs seeking accreditation whose program title included the titles of more than one accredited program name would be required to either seek accreditation under all of those program standards or change their program name to not reflect the title of other ABET accredited degree programs; see attached email from Maryanne Weiss, ABET Accreditation Director.

ABET provides accreditation for degree programs in Information Systems and Information Technology, as well as other computer related degree programs. Since the program title Information Systems Technology contains both information systems and information technology, ABET would require that the ISTE program satisfy the accreditation requirements for both Information Systems and Information Technology; which the ISTE program does not and has no attention of being capable to do. The ISTE faculty have worked the past two years to produce a self-study report on the ISTE program to demonstrate that it satisfies the requirements that ABET provides relative to assessing the suitability of accrediting programs of study in Information Systems. To also satisfy the requirements to satisfy the requirements for accrediting Information Technology programs, a number of additional Information Technology courses would have to be developed and added to the ISTE curricula, along with hiring a number of faculty to develop and teach Information Technology Courses. The ISTE faculty do not seek to provide an Information Technology degree program to accompany its existing Information Systems program. As such, the ISTE faculty voted to seek permission to change the name of the program from Information Systems

Technology. After much review of the titles of programs of study in Information Systems, the ISTE faculty concluded that the two most prominent names for ABET accredited Information Systems programs was Management Information Systems (MIS) and Computer Information Systems (CIS). Because of the technical and applied nature of the ISTE program, it is clearly consistent with CIS programs. Furthermore, the desire to articulate our program with Information Systems programs in community colleges suggests the name Computer Information Systems, the dominant name of Information Systems programs in community colleges. By adopting the most prominent name of Information Systems programs in both four year and two year colleges, the program will now be titled with a name readily recognizable for ABET accredited programs and readily recognizable by community college students as a path to complete a four year degree upon graduating from an Associates of Arts and Sciences CIS program at a community college.

The change to the CIP Code 11.0501.00 represents a change from 52.1201.00, a CIP code for Management Information Systems degree programs. The change to the 11.0501.00 CIP Code represents a change to a code more consistent with the content of our degree program and a way to more clearly distinguish between the information systems program in the College of Technology and information systems degree programs that typically exist in a College of Business. In addition, the 11.0501.00 CIP Code aligns our degree program with the positions for which the CIS program in the ILT department provides the competencies required for the positions; see attached document from O*Net Online listing position titles consistent with CIP Code 11.0501. The position titles listed on the attached document represent the types of positions to which the curriculum of the CIS program in the ILT department is directed and job titles that alumni of the program actually have in industry.

Lastly, regardless of the title of the information systems degree program in the ILT department, the program is and will continue to be a very technically oriented program. Students in the program are educated and trained to be problem solving computer professional with great knowledge of organizational and computer systems with accompany skills in using and developing computer technology as part of the delivered solutions.

III.

III.   Include the assessment of its effect on the administrative unit(s) involved or the institution as a whole.

The change in name of the program and its related degree will not result in any increase in administrative burden.

IV.

IV.   Summarize implications for classes, distribution of personnel, availability of facilities, and availability of equipment.

Personnel and facilities are in place to instruct the various courses.

V. V. **Give information regarding and additional costs or savings.**

There will be no material change in costs associated with maintaining the program.

VI. VI. **Provide Library Staff's Assistance of Library Resources Necessary for the Proposal Program.**

No extraordinary library resources are required. Existing M.D. Anderson Library databases, etc., are more than adequate to fulfill any undergraduate research material needs.