Presenting New Degree Programs to the Board of Curators

In 2019, the Board of Curators (BOC) implemented a new process for new degree programs. This process is summarized below:

* Academic Affairs formats new degree program information for inclusion in BOC materials, which must be finalized two weeks prior to the BOC meeting.
* BOC committees that review the proposal meet one week prior to the full BOC meeting via teleconference.
* The appropriate Dean, Associate Dean, or Provost presents the information about the new program during this committee meeting. Authors may also present, and should at a minimum be available to answer questions. **Please notify the Steven Chaffin with Academic Affairs (**[**schaffin@umsystem.edu**](mailto:schaffin@umsystem.edu)**) concerning who will be presenting at least three weeks prior to the full BOC meeting.**
* Schedule a phone call with Steve and develop a one-page set of talking points highlighting the key points of the presentation. Plan on providing a 3-4-minute summary of the program. This time limit is ***firm***. Anticipate receiving questions after your presentation, and be sure to cover the following:
  + Nature of the program and a compelling reason for why it should be offered
  + How the program aligns with university strategic plans
  + Why this, why now?
  + Will the program bring in new students and/or new revenue?
  + Brief market analysis
  + How does the program utilize existing resources?
  + How will you ensure the program is successful?

*Some presenters find it helpful to prepare a written script. An example script is included on the following pages.*

EXAMPLE SCRIPT FROM TERRY THIEL

The Bachelor of Science in Computing Technology at UMSL will educate and prepare current and future students for careers in the technology sector. These graduates will be well-trained to meet the growing technology workforce needs of the St Louis region and the state of Missouri. In Missouri, six of the 10 jobs with the best outlook for employment are in Computer Science and Technology. This new degree program will grow with the increasing demand for jobs in this field which will stimulate future student interest in the Computing Technology degree.

The Bachelor of Science in Computing Technology differs from the BS in Computer Science. It requires less in the way of upper level math and computer science courses, replacing them with courses that are more technology based. This removes some of the barriers to graduation for many students, leading to an increase in student retention and graduation rates. This program will serve students who want to learn more about the applied and technological aspects of Computer Science, but are not interested in graduate school. It will allow us to better retain current students who want a practical emphasis that focuses on the business needs of the technology sector - students who now attend local private universities that offer similar degrees.

The new Computing Technology degree will not require any new courses – it simply makes better use of existing courses. However, as the enrollment in this program grows, we anticipate needing 12 new sections of Computer Science courses by year five, which will require two new faculty positions, probably one in the second year and one in the fourth year of the program.

The Computing Technology degree is different from, but complementary to, the Information Technology degree offered by MU. Computing Technology focuses more heavily on programming skills than does Information Technology. Computing Technology requires more math and computer science courses than does Information Technology. However, as both MU and UMSL develop online courses that could serve both the Computing Technology and Information Technology programs, we anticipate increased opportunities for cross-campus collaboration.

The Computing Technology degree is designed to attract and serve the place-bound UMSL student population, many of whom now attend local private institutions that offer similar degrees. In summary, the Computing Technology degree will offer our students the training they need to meet the growing technology workforce demands of the St Louis region and the state of Missouri. The Computing Technology degree aligns well with our Strategic Plan which states that UMSL is committed to providing innovative programs that lead to successful graduates who support the growth of businesses and other organizations in the greater St. Louis community.

EXAMPLE OUTLINE FORM TERRY THIEL

The **Bachelor of Science in Computing Technology (CT) at UMSL**

1. New CT degree in Computer Science is designed to:

* Increase the technological breadth of our graduates, to prepare them for current and future technology jobs.
* Increase opportunities for students less interested in the mathematical foundations of Computer Science and more interested in the technological aspects of Computer Science.
* Provide graduates who are better trained for the growing technology workforce needs of the local and state economy.

1. New CT degree in Computer Science will serve students who want to learn more about the applied and technological aspects of CS, but are not interested in graduate school.

* Attract new students, who now attend local private universities that offer similar degrees
* Better retain current students who want a practical emphasis that focuses on the business needs of the technology sector.
* Remove barriers for current and prospective students by modernizing our elective offerings
  + Upper level math and computing courses are barriers to graduation for many students.
    - CT requires less Math
    - CT removes some of the upper level Computer Science courses.

1. New CT degree in Computer Science prepares current and future students for careers in the technology sectors.

* The CT program will help meet the workforce needs of St Louis and Missouri.
* In Missouri, among the 10 jobs with the best outlook for employment, six are in Computer Science and technology (<https://www.missourieconomy.org/pdfs/mo_it.pdf>).
* The new CT program will grow with the demand for jobs in this field, which will stimulate student interest.

1. New CT degree is cross disciplinary with Information Systems in the College of Business Administration and will offer collaboration opportunities as both MU and UMSL are developing more online courses that could serve both the CT and IT programs:

* Will not require any completely new courses
* Makes better use of existing courses.
* With growth in enrollment, it is likely that 12 new sections of Cmp Sci courses will be needed starting in year five, which will require two new positions: one in year two and one in year four.

1. The CT program is complementary to the programs offered by MU (too detailed below?)

* CT requires a math-major-level, 5-credit Calculus I course. IT requires a non-math-major-level, 3-credit Calculus course.
* CT requires Discrete Structures, a 3000-level math course. IT does not.
* CT requires 9 computer science courses as part of the core courses. IT requires 3 computer science courses as part of the core courses.
* IT requires 4 information technology courses as part of the core courses. CT requires none.
* IT requires a business course. CT does not.
* CT focuses more heavily on programming skills than does IT.

1. Audience for the CT Program:

* The CT program is designed to serve the place-bound UMSL student population and is designed to attract these place-bound St. Louis students, who now attend local private institutions that offer similar programs.
* The CT program is designed to retain current UMSL students who do not complete a degree Computer Science and leave the university.