

TRANSMITTAL AND ABSTRACT OF SENATE REPORT

Date Presented to the Senate: May 8, 2008

Presenter: Carmen Balthrop, Chair, Senate Programs, Curricula, and Courses Committee

Subject of Report: Proposal to rename the M.S. and Ph.D. degree programs in Applied Mathematics and Scientific Computation to reflect new area of specialization. The programs would now be known as the M.S. and Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics and Statistics, and Scientific Computation.

Senate Document Number: 07-08-37

**Voting: (a) on resolutions or recommendations one by one, or
(b) in a single vote
(c) to endorse entire report**

A. Statement of Issue:

The College of Computer, Mathematical, and Physical Sciences proposes to rename the M.S. and Ph.D. programs in Applied Mathematics and Scientific Computation to reflect a new area of specialization in Applied Statistics. The programs would now be known as the M.S. and Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics and Statistics, and Scientific Computation. The proposed name change will lead to greater visibility of the extensive and widespread expertise and educational opportunities in statistics that exist on the campus, as well as helping to recruit and retain students with specific interests in applied statistics.

The proposal is submitted to the Senate by the Office of Academic Affairs following favorable recommendation by the Academic Planning Advisory Committee (APAC) on March 3, 2008, approval by the Graduate Programs, Curricula & Courses Committee on April 3, and the Senate Committee on Programs, Curricula & Courses on April 18. **This proposal is submitted contingent upon formal approval by the Graduate Council on April 29. The Office of Academic Affairs requests that the Senate Executive Committee place the proposal on the May 8 Senate agenda to expedite off-campus approval and implementation. Graduate Council approval will be in place by the time the Senate meets. No controversy is anticipated.**

If the Senate approves the proposal, it would still require further approval by the President and the Chancellor (with notification to the Maryland Higher Education Commission).

B. Recommendation:

The Senate Committee on Programs, Curricula, and Courses recommends that the Senate approve the name change.

C. Committee Work:

The Committee considered the proposal at its meeting on April 18. Associate Dean David Lay, Department of Mathematics Chair James Yorke, and Professor Eric Slud were present at the meeting to answer questions. After discussion, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend the name change.

D. Alternatives:

The Senate could decline to approve the name change.

E. Risks:

If the Senate does not approve the name change, the University would lose an opportunity to enhance the visibility of statistics and applied statistics on the campus. The University would also lose the opportunity to recruit and retain students specifically interested in applied statistics.

F. Financial Implications:

There are no indications of a financial risk.