



Date of Meeting:

14/June/2010

PROPOSED CHANGE OF AWARD DESIGNATION

Existing Award:	Bachelor of Science (Honours)
Existing Programme Title:	Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Electrical Power Systems
Proposed Award:	Bachelor of Engineering (Honours)
Proposed Programme Title:	Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) in Electrical Power Systems
Award Type:	Honours Bachelor Degree
Award Class:	Major
NFQ Level:	8
Intakes Commencing:	September 2010

PANEL MEMBERS

Name
Dr Stephen Cassidy (Chair), Head of Teaching & Learning
Mr John P. Murphy, Department of Civil, Structural & Environmental Engineering
Mr Jim O'Dwyer, Head of Department of Computing
Mr Ed Riordan, Deputy Registrar & Head of Academic Quality, CIT

PROPOSING TEAM MEMBERS

Name
Dr Joe Connell, Acting Head of Department of Electrical Engineering
Mr Sreto Boljevic, Department of Electrical Engineering
Mr Joe Buckley, Department of Electrical Engineering
Mr Denis Collins, Department of Electrical Engineering
Mr Jerry Duggan, Department of Electrical Engineering
Mr Gerard Geaney, Department of Electrical Engineering
Mr Noel Mulcahy, Department of Electrical Engineering
Mr Padraig O Murchu, Department of Electrical Engineering
Mr Sean McShera, Department of Electrical Engineering

BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSAL

The Department of Electrical Engineering propose to change the award designation from Bachelor of Science to Bachelor of Engineering for the 1-year add-on honours degree in Electrical Power Systems. When first validated in 2003, an award designation of Bachelor of Science was chosen, although it was always understood by the Department that this programme was essentially an engineering qualification.

The proposed change of award designation was supported by the 2007/08 Engineering Programmatic Review Peer Review, which recommended that this be completed as soon as practicable, through the Academic Council of CIT.

FINDINGS OF THE PANEL

1. General Findings

Employers have questioned from time to time why this programme does not have a Bachelor of Engineering title, as the graduates are employed primarily as engineers, and are seen as engineers, not scientists. Nevertheless, the Bachelor of Science award has not been a handicap for graduates, given the strong performance of graduates and the reputation of the programme over the years.

The programme team are confident that Bachelor of Engineering is a much more appropriate title, and will assist in attracting prospective students.

The panel are satisfied that fundamental engineering principles are evident throughout the programme, across all modules. In discussion, particular attention was paid to the HETAC engineering descriptors, and how these are addressed through modules of the programme.

The proposers stated that next step in the development of this programme will be the conversion of the 3-year ordinary degree plus 1-year add-on honours degree to a 4-year ab initio Level 8 honours degree. This process will be completed during 2010/11.

2. Conclusions

Following discussions with the programme team, the panel is satisfied that the programme outcomes meet the HETAC engineering standards. The programme team adequately outlined how the programme addresses the engineering learning standards required for a Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) award designation.

Therefore, the panel is pleased to **recommend approval** for the change of award designation from Bachelor of Science (Hons) to Bachelor of Engineering (Hons). This new award designation for the add-on year will apply to the class of 2011 onwards.

The Department and the Registrar should consider whether students in the graduating class of 2010 should be offered a Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) award as opposed to a Bachelor of Science (Hons). The Department and Registrar should also consider making this offer to 2009 graduates who as a result of the Engineering Programmatic Review and the change to Modularisation and Semesterisation would have followed the same programme.