



University Faculty Senate
Florida Atlantic University
777 Glades Road
Boca Raton, FL 33431

MEMORANDUM

TO: University Faculty Senate (UFS) Steering Committee

FROM: Dr. Chris Beetle, Chair, Graduate Programs Committee (GPC)
Dr. Paul Peluso, Chair, University Graduate Council (UGC)

DATE: Wednesday, December 16, 2020

SUBJECT: Rescinded Recommendation of Approval for Two Ph.D. Program Proposals

The GPC recommended the following proposals of self-sustaining Ph.D. programs for approval by the UFS at its meeting on February 19, 2020:

1. Professional Doctor of Philosophy with Major in Computer Engineering
2. Professional Doctor of Philosophy with Major in Computer Science
3. Professional Doctor of Philosophy with Major in Electrical Engineering

All three proposals were subsequently recommended for approval by the UGC at its meeting on February 26, 2020. However, all three were removed from further consideration by the UFS at that time, by request of the Provost. The Provost's office withdrew its objections to one of the proposals (#2) on November 9, 2020, stating that proposing more than one such Ph.D. program at the same time had been a concern.

In light of the long delay, and of the caution raised by the Provost's office against approving multiple instances of this new type of program at the same time, the GPC and UGC believe that the remaining proposals (#1 and #3) should be withdrawn. We do of course welcome them be resubmitted to the full UFS review process at a later date, when we will presumably be able to examine them in light of experience with the program (#2) that is now moving forward before the UFS.

Accordingly, the GPC voted unanimously at its meeting on December 9, 2020 to rescind our prior recommendation of approval for the two proposals (#1 and #3) that remain removed from consideration. The UGC voted unanimously to do the same at its meeting on December 16, 2020. Our prior recommendation of approval stands for proposal #2, as it was amended by UGC it to include a memo making comments for the consideration of UFS and its other committees.

CC: Bret Danilowicz, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs