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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION: Senate

TEL

FROM: Peter Keller, Vice-President, Academic and Provost, and Chair, SCUP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Keller".

 RE: Suspension of Admission and Dissolution of the Bioinformatics Graduate Diploma Program
 (SCUP 16-51)

DATE: December 12, 2016

TIME

At its December 7, 2016 meeting, SCUP reviewed and approved the proposal to suspend admission and to dissolve the Bioinformatics Graduate Diploma Program in the Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry within the Faculty of Science, effective Summer 2017.

Motion 1:

That Senate approve the suspension of admission to the Bioinformatics Graduate Diploma Program in the Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry within the Faculty of Science, effective Summer 2017.

Motion 2:

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the dissolution of the Bioinformatics Graduate Diploma Program in the Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry within the Faculty of Science, effective Summer 2017.

c: W. Parkhouse

**GRADUATE STUDIES AND
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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Senate Committee on University **DATE** November 23, 2016
 Priorities (SCUP)
FROM Wade Parkhouse, Chair of Senate **No.** GS2016.40
 Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)
RE: Termination of the Bioinformatics Graduate Diploma program

For approval:

At its meeting of November 7, 2016, SGSC approved the termination of the Bioinformatics Graduate Diploma program in the Department Molecular Biology and Biochemistry and the School of Computing Science within the Faculty of Science, which gives rise to the following recommendations:

Motion 1:

That SCUP approve and recommend to Senate the suspension of admission to the Bioinformatics Graduate Diploma program in the Faculty of Science.

Motion 2:

That SCUP approve and recommend to Senate the termination of the Bioinformatics Graduate Diploma program in the Faculty of Science.

MEMO

ATTENTION Senate Graduate Studies Committee	TEL
FROM Peter Ruben, Chair, Faculty of Science Graduate Program Committee	
RE Program termination: Bioinformatics Graduate Diploma	
DATE November 23, 2016	TIME 11:43 AM

The Graduate Program Committee in the Faculty of Science recommends the termination of the Bioinformatics Graduate Diploma. This program has had no students for several years. Please submit this request to SGSC for approval.



Proposal to Terminate a Program

1. All impacted credentials, levels and categories of the degree, and specific discipline or field of study

Bioinformatics Graduate Diploma

2. Location of the program

Administered by the Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry

3. Faculty(ies), Department(s), or School(s) offering the program

**Department of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry
School of Computing Science (not reflected in the SFU Calendar)**

4. Anticipated final dissolution date

As soon as possible

5. Reasons for termination of the program, such as:

- ***Lack of enrollment demand***

The diploma was originally created by Dr. Michael J. Smith, MBB Professor Emeritus in collaboration with Dr. Arvind Gupta (Computing Sciences) in 2003, to support students sponsored by the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR) Bioinformatics in Health Science Training Grant in which Simon Fraser University was a full partner with the University of BC and the BC Genome Sciences Centre. One student completed the program in 2007. There have been no other students enrolled in the program. See Senate documents for more information: <https://docushare.sfu.ca/dsweb/Get/Document-358449/S03-104.pdf> & <https://docushare.sfu.ca/dsweb/Get/Document-372301/Minutes-20031103.pdf>

There were concerns expressed by other faculty at the time that it would not be well used, since there was a new, very attractive, CIHR-funded graduate program that students could utilize for training, leading to a PhD or MSc through either CS or MBB departments. There were also multiple undergraduate programming options for majors and minors related to bioinformatics across different components of the CS-Biol spectrum, for students wanting more base training. This proved to be the case, and so this program should no longer be offered.

6. Plan for phasing-out of program, including

- a) Steps taken to consult with students

No students impacted

- b) Steps taken to consult with impacted instructors and staff

Dr. Mark Paetzel, MBB Graduate Chair, has asked Drs. Fiona Brinkman, Jack Chen, Ryan Morin and Frederic Pio (all involved in MBB Bioinformatics courses/programs), if they agree that this program can be removed from the SFU Calendar. They have no problem in having this program removed.

- c) Steps taken to ensure students in the program have the opportunity to complete the program

No students enrolled in the program

- d) Description of the reallocation of any remaining program and associated resources when program is terminated

No resources impacted

- e) Confirmation of consultation with other impacted departments and Faculties

Contacted Binay Bhattacharya, Computing Science Graduate Program Chair. He confirmed that Computing Science agrees with terminating this program..

- f) Impacts on and/or reorganization of curriculum in cognate disciplines

No impact

- g) Timeline of activities

No other activities required

7. Name, title, phone number and email address of the institutional contact person in case more information is required (normally, the Dean of the Faculty in which the program is housed)

Dr. Mark Paetzel

Professor and Graduate Program Chair

mpaetzel@sfu.ca

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