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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION Senate

FROM Dilson Rassier, Provost and Vice-President Academic, and Chair, SCUP

RE: Suspension of Admission: Geographic Information Systems Major and Honours (SCUP 23-35)

DATE November 16, 2023

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At its meeting on October 25, 2023, SCUP reviewed and approved the suspension of admission to the Geographic Information Systems Major and Honours. It is attached for the information of Senate.

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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION	Senate Committee on University Priorities Kevin	DATE	September 15, 2023
FROM	Oldknow, Acting Chair	PAGES	1/1
	Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies		
RE:	Faculty of Applied Sciences/Faculty of Environment (SCUS 23-72)		

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of September 14, 2023, gives rise to the following recommendation:

Motion

That SCUP approves the suspension of admission to the Geographic Information Science Major and the Geographic Information Science Honours in the School of Computing Science and the Department of Geography within the Faculty of Applied Sciences and the Faculty of Environment.

The relevant documentation for review by SCUP is attached.



Proposal to suspend admissions to a program

NOTE: Suspension of admissions to a program does not result in the termination of a program. After a program has been suspended for at least two semesters, an academic unit follows the process to terminate the program. Or, if no students are currently enrolled in the program, academic units can consider the fast track option.

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

Geographic Information Science Major, BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Geographic Information Science Honours, BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

2. Location of the program

Burnaby campus

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

The School of Computing Science and the Department of Geography

4. Proposed date for suspension

May 1, 2024

5. Reasons for suspension of admissions:

There is a lack of enrollment demand in the School of Computing Science for GIS major and honours. As of June 12, 2023, there are fewer than 10 such students. The Geography Department is keen to significantly revise these existing degrees, and move the home department to Geography, to reflect changing times and current student/market demands for GIS skills. We propose to pause / freeze enrolments in these existing degrees to allow such revision and transition to take place.

6. Plan for suspension, including:

a) Steps taken to consult with students

Both Geography and Computing Science have agreed that suspension of these programs should still allow all students presently in the current form of the GIS major and honours programs to graduate. There are currently fewer than 10 students in the current GIS major/honours program, who could continue to enrol in courses and consult with advisors in FAS and Geography, as needed. Once the significantly revised degrees are in place, we would also offer the former degree-program students the opportunity to switch to the revised degree programs, if that is their preference.

The Undergraduate Program Committee Chair in Computing Science discussed this topic of program suspension at the June 2023 UPC meeting, and the student representative members are able to vote on the matter.

b) Steps taken to consult with impacted instructors and staff

Geography and Computing Science have decided that there is no known significant impact on their respective instructors and staff.

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

The GIS major and honours programs would allow all students presently in these programs to complete their degrees in their current form. Once the significantly

revised degrees are in place, we would also offer the former degree-program students the opportunity to switch to the revised degree programs, if that is their preference.

d) Confirmation of consultation with other impacted departments and faculties

A meeting with FAS Advising, Geography Advising, and the Computing Science UPC Chair took place June 12, 2023, to discuss this matter and go over this Proposal to Suspension form.

7. Draft Calendar entry detailing suspension of admissions to the program

Admission to the Bachelor of Science, Geographic Information Science Major and Bachelor of Science, Geographic Information Science Honours will be suspended effective May 1, 2024.

8. 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).

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