SFU OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC AND PROVOST

MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION	Senate	**DATE**	March 20, 2013
FROM	Jon Driver, Vice-President, Academic and Provost, and Chair, SCUP	**PAGES**	1/1
RE:	Faculties of Applied Sciences and Arts and Social Sciences: Suspension of Admission and Dissolution of the Joint Major and Joint Honours in Computing Science and Philosophy (SCUP 13-11)		

At its March 13, 2013 meeting, SCUP reviewed and approved the proposal to suspend admission to the Joint Major and Joint Honours in Computing Science and Philosophy in the School of Computing Science and Department of Philosophy within the Faculty of Applied Sciences and Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Fall 2013 and dissolve the program effective, Fall 2014.

Motion 1:

That Senate approve the suspension of admission to the Joint Major and Joint Honours in Computing Science and Philosophy in the School of Computing Science and Department of Philosophy within the Faculty of Applied Sciences and Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, effective Fall 2013.

Motion 2:

That Senate approve and recommend to the Board of Governors the dissolution of the Joint Major and Joint Honours in Computing Science and Philosophy in the School of Computing Science and Department of Philosophy within the Faculty of Applied Sciences and Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences effective, Fall 2014.

c: E. Tiffany

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY   ENGAGING THE WORLD

SFU OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATE VICE-PRESIDENT, ACADEMIC AND
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MEMORANDUM

ATTENTION	Senate Committee on University Priorities	**DATE**	February 8, 2013
FROM	Gordon Myers, Chair Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies	**PAGES**	1/1
RE:	Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (SCUS 13-05g)		

Action undertaken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of February 7, 2013, gives rise to the following recommendations:

Motion 1:

That SCUP approve and recommend to Senate the suspension of admission to the Joint Major and Joint Honours in Computing Science and Philosophy in the School of Computing Science and the Department of Philosophy within the Faculty of Applied Sciences and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences effective Fall 2013.

Motion 2

That SCUP approve and recommend to Senate the dissolution of the Joint Major and Joint Honours in Computing Science and Philosophy in the School of Computing Science and the Department of Philosophy within the Faculty of Applied Sciences and the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences effective Spring 2014.

The relevant documentation for review by SCUP is attached.

SFU

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
Department of Philosophy

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January 10, 2013:

COVER LETTER RE: DISSOLUTION OF JOINT MAJOR IN COMPUTING SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY

The Department of Philosophy would like to request the suspension of admission to and the dissolution of the Joint Major and Joint Honours in Computing Science and Philosophy. The reason we are putting forward these two proposals at the same time is that there are no current students in the program, nor have their been in the five and a half years it has been in the Calendar.

Background:
When the joint program was originally conceived, it was hoped that because "There is a natural intellectual affinity between Computing Science and Philosophy," including "the very substantial amount of logical inference and abstract conceptual organization required in both fields," (S.07.31) and because "An appreciable number of students taking Computing Science already take Philosophy courses" (S.07.31) that a Joint Major would be attractive to students. Also at that time, there was a popular faculty member (Oliver Schulte) who was cross-appointed in Philosophy and Computing Science, and it was believed that he might attract some students into the joint degree. Unfortunately, the demand did not materialized. One plausible explanation is that the requirements of the joint degree were too onerous, and interested students simply opted for a Major/Minor combination (in 2009 one student did complete a full double-major). Also, by the time the Joint Major made it through Senate, Professor Schulte had moved full-time into Computing Science. Whatever the reasons, the clear lack of student interest indicates that, regrettably, it is time to dissolve the program.

PROPOSAL TO SUSPEND ADMISSIONS FOR JOINT MAJOR/HONOURS IN COMPUTING SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY

1. Impacted Programs:
   - B.Sc. Joint Major in Computing Science and Philosophy
   - B.Sc. Joint Honours in Computing Science and Philosophy
   - B.A. Joint Major in Computing Science and Philosophy
   - B.A. Joint Honours in Computing Science and Philosophy

2. Location of the program: Burnaby

3. The administrative home of the Joint Major and Honours programs is in the School of Computing Science in the Faculty of Applied Sciences. Courses are offered primarily from Philosophy and Computing Science.

4. We propose suspending admission beginning in Fall 2013 with an anticipated final dissolution date of Spring 2014.

5. The reason for suspension is a *lack of student demand*.
   The Joint Major and Joint Honours programs were approved by Senate in February 2007 (S.07.31) for a start date of Fall 2007. In those 5 years, no students have enrolled in the Joint Major or Joint Honours program. Our speculation as to the reason for the lack of interest is that the requirements were too onerous, and interested students opted to simply to a Major/Minor combination rather than a full Joint Major.

6. Plan for suspension, including:
   - The Department of Philosophy has consulted with the School of Computing Science, which also agrees that the lack of student demand warrants dissolving the program.
   - There are no current students to be consulted.
   - Once approved by Senate, a notice will be placed on the Philosophy Department's website alerting students to the upcoming dissolution of the Program.

7. Draft Calendar entry detailing suspension of admissions to the program:
   The Joint Major in Computing Science and Philosophy will not be accepting new students into the degree as of Fall 2013. The program will no longer offered as of Spring 2014.

   The Joint Honours in Computing Science and Philosophy will not be accepting new students into the degree as of Fall 2013. The program will no longer offered as of Spring 2014.

8. Further enquires may be address to: Evan Tiffany, Associate Professor and

Undergraduate Chair, Department of Philosophy; etiffany@sfu.ca; 778-782-4482.

PROPOSAL TO DISSOLVE JOINT MAJOR/HONOURS IN COMPUTING SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY

1. Impacted Programs:
   - B.Sc. Joint Major in Computing Science and Philosophy
   - B.Sc. Joint Honours in Computing Science and Philosophy
   - B.A. Joint Major in Computing Science and Philosophy
   - B.A. Joint Honours in Computing Science and Philosophy

2. Location of the program: Burnaby

3. The administrative home of the Joint Major and Honours programs is in the School of Computing Science in the Faculty of Applied Sciences. Courses are offered primarily from Philosophy and Computing Science.

4. Anticipated final dissolution date: Spring 2014.

5. The reason for suspension is a *lack of student demand.*

   The Joint Major and Honours was approved by Senate in February 2007 (S.07.31) for a start date of Fall 2007. In those 5 years, no students have enrolled in the Joint Major or Honours program. Our speculation as to the reason for the lack of interest is that the requirements were too onerous, and interested students opted to simply to a Major/Minor combination rather than a full Joint Major.

6. Plan for phasing-out of program:
   - The Department of Philosophy has consulted with the School of Computing Science, which also agrees that the lack of student demand warrants dissolving the program.
   - There are no current students to be consulted.
   - Once approved by Senate, a notice will be placed on the Philosophy Department's website alerting students to the upcoming dissolution of the Program.
   - The time-line is to suspend admission starting Fall 2013 with a final dissolution date of Spring 2014.

7. Further enquires may be address to: Evan Tiffany, Associate Professor and Undergraduate Chair, Department of Philosophy; etiffany@sfu.ca; 782-4482.