



OFFICE OF THE FACULTY COUNCIL

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

P. O. BOX 7816 • Austin, TX 78713-7816
(512) 471-5934 • Fax: (512) 471-5984 • <http://www.utexas.edu/faculty/council>

April 18, 2018

Provost Maurie McInnis
The University of Texas at Austin MAI 4005
Campus Mail Code: G3400 Dear Provost McInnis:

Dear Provost McInnis,

Enclosed for your consideration and action is the proposed closure of the Master of Science in Applied Physics degree program due to low production (D 16434-16441). Given that no faculty positions are threatened by this program elimination, the Faculty Council endorsed the recommended closure on April 17, 2018.

The Graduate School is currently compiling associated reports and recommendations from the graduate program in Physics, the College of Natural Sciences, the Graduate Assembly and the Graduate Dean. Following your receipt and review of these materials, please provide your recommendation for approval or disapproval to President Fenves. Final approval resides with his office with formal notification to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Let me know if you have questions or if I can provide other information concerning this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alan W. Friedman".

Alan W. Friedman, Secretary
General Faculty and Faculty Council
The University of Texas at Austin
Arthur J. Thaman and Wilhelmina Doré Thaman Professor of English and
Comparative Literature

AWF:dlr Enclosure

ec: Carlos E. Martinez, Chief of Staff, Office of the President
Susan Lamborghini, Assistant to the Chief of Staff, Office of the President
Cynthia M. Sanchez, Executive Assistant-Program Coordinator, Office of the
President
Lydia A. Cornell, Administrative Program Coordinator, Provost's Office
Michelle K. George, Administrative Manager for Faculty Affairs, Provost's Office
Michelle L. Broadway, Assistant Dean, Office of Graduate Studies
Hal Alper, Chair, Graduate Assembly
Jim Cox, Chair, Academic Committee of the Graduate Assembly
Linda N. Dickens, Senior Director of Institutional Accreditation and Effectiveness

DOCUMENTS OF THE GENERAL FACULTY

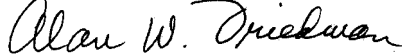
RECOMMENDATION TO CLOSE THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN APPLIED PHYSICS DEGREE PROGRAM

The Graduate Assembly and Assistant Dean Michelle Broadway in the Graduate School request Faculty Council consideration and recommendation concerning the proposed closure of the Master of Science in Applied Physics due to low production. When “*Initiating the Closure of a Graduate-Level Academic Program*,” the Faculty Council is charged, specifically, with considering issues and policies outlined in HOP 2-2230, Threatened Faculty Retrenchment <<https://policies.utexas.edu/policies/abandonment-or-reduction-academic-programs-or-positions-academic-reasons-or-financial>>. No faculty positions are threatened by this program elimination. Enclosed you will find the following documents related to the recommended closure:

- Graduate School procedures for Initiating the Closure of a Graduate-Level Academic Program
- Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board Annual Low-Producing Program List Letter (May 10, 2017)
- Letter of recommendation: Dean Hicke, College of Natural Sciences
- Letter of recommendation: Physics Department Chair Jack Ritchie
- Letter of recommendation: GSC in Physics

The Secretary has classified this legislation as of general interest. It is being presented on a no-protest basis. If no objection is filed with the Office of the General Faculty by the date specified below, the legislation will be held to have been approved by the Faculty Council. If an objection is filed within the prescribed period, the legislation will be presented to the Faculty Council at its next meeting. The objection, with reasons, must be signed by a member of the Faculty Council. Final approval resides with the President with formal notification to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

To be counted, a protest must be received in the Office of the General Faculty by April 17, 2018.



Alan W. Friedman, Secretary of the General Faculty and Faculty Council
The University of Texas at Austin

Arthur J. Thaman and Wilhelmina Doré Thaman Professor of English and Comparative Literature

RECOMMENDATION TO CLOSE THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN APPLIED PHYSICS DEGREE PROGRAM

Initiating the Closure of a Graduate-Level Academic Program

Per UT System Board of Regents' Rule 31003 <<http://www.utsystem.edu/board-of-regents/rules/31003-abandonment-academic-positions-or-programs>>, the president of an institution of the UT System, in consultation with the faculty, has the responsibility for determining when to eliminate occupied academic positions, when to abandon an academic program, or occasions when both may occur. Regents' Rule 31003, "Abandonment of Academic Positions or Programs," is interpreted in the light of Regents' Rule 40101<<http://www.utsystem.edu/board-of-regents/rules/40101-faculty-role-educational-policy-formulation>>, which gives faculty a "major role" in regard to "general academic policies and welfare" and related matters.

The process for requesting closure of a graduate-level academic program is outlined below. This process applies to academic programs that appear on the University's program inventory and that are certified by the Dean of the Graduate School and Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs. The graduate inventory includes graduate-level degree programs and graduate certificates that require completion of 16-29 SCH.

Requests to close graduate-level academic programs can be initiated by a Graduate Studies Committee, by a School/College dean, or by an external entity such as UT System or the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, among others. These requests must be submitted in writing to the Dean of the Graduate School, and they must be accompanied by recommendations from the GSC, the Department Chair/Program Director, and the School/College Dean. They must describe the basis for recommending program closure and include the following information:

Date when new students will no longer be admitted

- 1) An explanation of how affected parties (students, faculty, staff) have been informed of the requested program closure
- 2) An explanation of how all affected students will be helped to complete their programs of study with minimal disruption
- 3) An indication as to whether the teach-out plan will cause students to incur additional charges/expenses, if so, how the students will be notified
- 4) A description of the tenured and tenure-track faculty whose primary appointments reside in the program under consideration for closure and a description of how those faculty will be redeployed or helped to find new employment
- 5) A summary of the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC) discussion and vote related to program closure

Requests for program closure will be considered by the Graduate School only when accompanied by recommendations from the GSC, the Department Chair/Program Director, and the School/College Dean.

- If a request for graduate-program closure is submitted to the Graduate School without a recommendation from the program's GSC, the Graduate Dean will contact the GSC Chair to request submission of the GSC recommendation within 30 days. Recommendations of a GSC should be signed by the GSC Chair and include a summary of the GSC discussion and vote related to program closure.
- If a request for graduate-program closure is submitted to the Graduate School without a recommendation from the Department Chair/Program Director, the Graduate Dean will contact the Department Chair/Program Director to request submission of their recommendation within 30 days. Recommendations from Department Chairs/Program Directors should describe enrollment and existing interest in closely related graduate or undergraduate degree programs.
- If a request for graduate-program closure is submitted to the Graduate School without a recommendation from the School/College dean, the Graduate Dean will contact that dean to

request submission of their recommendation within 30 days.

Requests for program closure that include all required recommendations will be forwarded to the Graduate Assembly¹ and the Faculty Council² for further consideration. The Faculty Council is charged, specifically, with considering issues and policies outlined in HOP 2-2230, Threatened Faculty Retrenchment. Upon request, the Graduate School will provide these legislative bodies (Faculty Council and Graduate Assembly) with graduate-program review materials and/or program data contained in the Graduate Student Information System (GSIS) ----- for example, application, yield, and placement information ----- to inform and support their review.

Recommendations of the Faculty Council are transmitted to the President. Recommendations of the Graduate Assembly are forwarded to the Graduate Dean.

The Graduate Dean will submit a written recommendation to the Provost, attaching recommendations submitted by the GSC, Department Chair/Program Director, School/College Dean, and Graduate Assembly. Additionally, the Graduate Dean will notify the Senior Director of Institutional Accreditation and Effectiveness³ in the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost that a recommendation for program closure is pending review by the Provost.

The Provost will submit a written recommendation to the President, attaching recommendations submitted by the GSC, Department Chair/Program Director, School/College Dean, Graduate Assembly, and Graduate Dean.

The President will consider a request to close a graduate degree program following receipt of recommendations from the Provost, Graduate Dean, Graduate Assembly, School/College Dean, GSC, Department Chair/Program Director and the Faculty Council. Where appropriate, procedures established under HOP 2-2230, Threatened Faculty Retrenchment, are followed.

If the President decides to close a graduate degree program, a request for program closure is submitted to the Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at UT System and a prospectus, including details of a teach-out plan, is submitted to the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)⁴.

If there are no additional graduate degrees offered in the affected field of study, the Graduate Studies Committee for the program will be dissolved within one year of the effective date of program closure. The published description of the graduate program will be removed from the Graduate Catalog following the effective date of the program closure.

¹ The request for program closure will be forwarded to the Chairs of the Academic Committee and the Graduate Assembly. ² The request for program closure will be forwarded to the Chair of the Faculty Council, the Secretary of the General Faculty, and the Office of General Faculty.

³ This position is currently held by Linda Dickens.

⁴ Teach-out plans must be approved by SACS prior to implementation.

Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 10:24:57 AM Central Standard Time

Subject: Annual Low-Producing Program List Posted
Date: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at 3:49:28 PM Central Daylight Time
From: TX Higher Education Coordinating Board
To: Broadway, Michelle L
Category: Green Category

60x30TX Plan

Sent on behalf of Rex C. Peebles, Assistant Commissioner; Academic Quality and Workforce Division; Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

TO: Presidents and Chief Instructional Officers at Texas Community Colleges, Lamar State Colleges,
and Technical Colleges; and Chancellors, Presidents, and Chief Academic Officers at
Texas
Public Universities

FROM: Rex C. Peebles, Assistant Commissioner

SUBJECT: Annual Low-Producing Program List Posted

DATE: May 10, 2017

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) staff prepared the annual list of low-producing degree programs (LPP) for Fiscal Year 2017. The LPP list is posted online at www.thecb.state.tx.us/LPP. A report on the LPP will be submitted at the June 28 meeting of the Committee on Academic Workforce and Success (CAWS) and to the Board of the THECB on July 27.

Institutions may review their LPP programs in the List of Low Producing Programs - Fiscal Year 2017 Review. Programs marked "Exempt" for a specific year received an exemption from review for that year in a previous year's review. Programs marked "New" were instated too recently for review in that year. A program is reviewed starting in the eleventh year of its existence. Programs that are low producing for three years in a row are annotated with "Yes" in the column "Low Producing Program Three Years in a Row."

At the June CAWS meeting, THECB staff may recommend to its Board members that they issue a recommendation to an institution's governing board to consolidate or close a degree program that has been on the annual list of low-producing programs for three or more consecutive years. If the institution's governing board does not accept the THECB's recommendation, then the university system (or the institution, where a system does not exist) must identify the programs recommended for consolidation or closure on its next legislative appropriations request. In those situations, a system or institution also needs to develop a plan for the degree program to achieve the minimum standard for the degree awarded, or if the standard is not attainable, the institution needs to provide a rationale describing the merits of

continuing the degree program.

For additional information, visit www.thecb.state.tx.us/LPP or contact Reinold Cornelius at 512-427-6156 or Reinold.Cornelius@thecb.state.tx.us.

c: CSTC Liaisons

60 X 30 logo

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Tuesday, November 14, 2017 at 11:14:54 AM Central Standard Time

Subject: Re: Action Required: MSAP degree flagged as low-producing program
Date: Tuesday, October 17, 2017 at 2:20:40 PM Central Daylight Time
From: Ritchie, Jack
To: Broadway, Michelle L
CC: Hicke, Linda A, Knopf, Daniel F, Smith, Mark J, Wolcott, David A
Category: Address Immediately

Michelle,

The Department of Physics does not object to the elimination of the Master of Science in Applied Physics degree.

Jack

Jack Ritchie
 Chair, Department of Physics
 College of Natural Sciences
 The University of Texas at Austin
 Austin, TX 78712-1192
 (512)471-4488

From: Broadway, Michelle L
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2017 5:17 PM
To: Ritchie, Jack L
Cc: Hicke, Linda A; Knopf, Daniel F; Smith, Mark J; Wolcott, David A
Subject: Action Required: MSAP degree flagged as low-producing program

Dr. Ritchie -

On July 28, 2017, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) voted to recommend the closure or consolidation of several UT Austin graduate degree programs that were identified as being low-producing for three years in a row. Coordinating Board rules define Master's programs that produce fewer than 15 graduates over a five-year period (average of three per year) and doctoral programs that produce fewer than 10 graduates over a five-year period (average of two per year) to be low-producing.

Data from the Coordinating Board indicate that the **Master of Science in Applied Physics (MSAP) degree (CIP 40.0801)** produced 1 graduate during the previous five-year period. Consequently, the THECB recommended closure of this program to the UT System.

The UT System Office of Academic Affairs is coordinating a low-producing programs review process that will culminate in action by the Board of Regents for programs that the University wishes to retain. If the Department of Physics would like to continue offering the MSAP degree, please submit an action plan for program continuation to Assistant Dean Michelle Broadway in the Graduate School on or before **November 1, 2017**. All action plans should include the following information:

- Provide a narrative that explains the causes of low production.
- Identify specific strategies to recruit, retain and/or graduate more students. Include benchmarks and timelines presented on a realistic, achievable timeframe.
- Provide the number of degrees conferred in AY 2016 (fall 2016 - summer 2017).



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

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January 3, 2018

Mark J. T. Smith
Dean of the Graduate School & Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

Dear Dean Smith:

During the 2017 reporting cycle, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (TEHCB) identified the Master of Science in Applied Physics degree as having been a low-producing program for three years in a row and, consequently, recommended closure of the degree program to the UT System. Following this recommendation, the Physics Department is soliciting the closure of the Master of Science in Applied Physics degree by the Fall of 2018.

This degree was created in 1995 and was designed to provide students with a broad background of graduate-level courses in physics and related fields with an emphasis on those aspects of science most used in an industry setting. This program was always envisioned to be ancillary to the other graduate degree programs of the Department of Physics and, therefore, has never required nor received any faculty or staff of its own accord. The enrollment in this program has been low as illustrated below, and no external applications have been received since 2009.

Year	Enrollment
1997-1998	5
1998-1999	6
1999-2000	4
2000-2001	4
2001-2002	4
2002-2003	2
2003-2004	1
2004-2005	1
2005-2006	1
2006-2007	1
2007-2008	2
2008-2009	2
2009-2017	0



COLLEGE OF NATURAL SCIENCES
Dean's Office

120 Inner Campus Dr., Stop G2500 • Austin, TX 78712-1252 • (512) 471-3285 • Fax (512) 232-

Mark J. T. Smith
Dean of the Graduate School
The University of Texas at Austin

February 2, 2018

Dear Dean Smith:

I am writing to support the recommendation to close the MS Applied Physics degree program. Rational for supporting this recommendation include the following:

- The program has been inactive for eight years.
- The Physics faculty are strongly in favor of the program closure.
- No faculty will be impacted by the program closure.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Hicke".

Linda Hicke
Dean of the College of Natural Sciences
The University of Texas at Austin