Governance Form A: General
2008-2009

Faculty Affiliation:
Faculty of Information

Name of Graduate Unit:
Faculty of Information

Graduate Program/s involved in proposal, if any:
Master of Information Studies

Brief Summary of Proposed Change:
The proposal will modify the requirements for the Master of Information Studies (MISt) degree [to be Master of Information (MI) per September 2009].

The requirements for the course option will change from “1.5 core FCE, 2.0 required FCE in an area of focus, and 2.0 elective FCE at the 2000-level” to 2.0 FCE core courses and an approved program of study.

The requirements for the thesis option will change from “1.5 core FCE, 2.0 elective FCE at the 2000-level, and complete a thesis (equivalent to 2.0 elective FCE)” to 2.0 FCE core courses, completion of a research methods course appropriate to their program of study, approval of a program of study, and completion of a thesis, equivalent to 3.0 FCE. The thesis is currently equivalent to 2.0 FCE, this proposal makes the thesis equivalent to 3.0 FCE. The current requirement for an A- in FIS 1240 Research Methods has been modified to requiring an A- in an appropriate research methods course.

Rationale:
The information field has broadened in scope and become more interdisciplinary in nature in the past decade; education in information need to reflect this new environment and provide students with opportunities to establish a solid fundamental foundation in principles and basic conceptual framework in information and specialize in areas within and across the information field. The new requirements allow students to specialize in a larger number of established fields within information or to pursue their individual interests which fit their own career interests and create their own paths through the curriculum.

A number of pre-approved templates for established paths through the curriculum will help and guide students to select courses and will limit the number of individual paths that need approval by the Program Director (in practice in consultation with the Program Committee).

The course equivalency for the thesis will increase from 2.0 FCE to 3.0 FCE to reflect the actual work involved in completing a thesis in the program and since FIS 1240 Research
Methods will no longer be required as a core course, the requirement an A- in this course has been removed and instead it is required that students complete course in research methods appropriate to their program of study.

**Prior Approvals/Actions:**
- The Faculty developed a Curriculum Framework document in the Spring 2008.
- The Curriculum Framework was approved in principle by Faculty Council on June 17, 2008
- Current document was approved by Faculty Programs Cttee on Nov. 10, 2008
- Approval by Faculty Council on Dec. 5, 2008

**Proposed Effective Date:**
September 2009

**Financial and/or Planning Implications:**
None.

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**Submitted by:**
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**Date:**
Nov. 11, 2008