

**SPECIAL REPORT  
OF THE  
GRADUATE COUNCIL**

concerning

**CREATION OF CONCENTRATION:  
FORENSIC ACCOUNTING  
(#5017)**

(Approved by the Rules Committee acting on behalf of the Faculty Senate, May 25, 2018)

Presented at the  
779<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting of the Faculty Senate  
September 13, 2018

**COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP**

**GRADUATE COUNCIL**

Neal Abraham, Nadia Al-Ahmed, Sonia Alvarez, Maria Barbon, Joseph Black, Paulina Borrego, D. Anthony Butterfield, Leslie Button, Canan Cevik, David Cort, Steve Goodwin, Mark Hamin, Neil Immerman, Cynthia Jacelon, Ramakrishna Janaswamy, Barbara Krauthamer, John Lopes, *Chair*, Daniel Morales, David Morin, Trevor Mukoki, Martina Nieswandt, MJ Peterson, Sarah Poissant, Frederic Schaffer, Patrick Sullivan, David Vaillancourt, Kristine Yu

**GRADUATE COUNCIL**

This proposal to create a new Forensic Accounting concentration in the M.S. in Accounting program (#5017) was recommended by the Graduate Council by an email vote for approval by the Faculty Senate or by the Rules Committee, acting on behalf of the Faculty Senate, over the summer.

*Briefly describe the Proposal*

We would like to add a forensic accounting track to the MS Accounting program. This track would require the completion of 9 credits in forensic accounting related classes. Those classes are in existence now and include the following: SCH-MGMT 697FA, Introduction to Forensic Accounting, SCH-MGMT 697FR, Fraud Investigation, and SCH-MGMT 797WC, White Collar Investigations. This would not add any additional credits to the total required to earn the degree. The MS Accounting curriculum is a 30 credit program with 18 credits of required classes, and 12 credits of electives. Students interested in the forensic accounting track would use 9 of their 12 elective credits to satisfy the track requirement. Proposals to convert these classes from experimental to permanent have been submitted.

*Provide a brief overview of the process for developing the proposal.*

We believe there is a market for forensic accounting training, and feel that we are in a good position to offer a track in our MS Accounting program, as well as the possibility of creating a new graduate certificate in forensic accounting. The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), is seeking partner institutions to offer a model curriculum in forensic accounting to provide a pathway to becoming a forensic accountant and/or CFF (Certified in Financial Forensics). We feel this is a positive indication that there is a need for this training.

#### **Purpose and Goals**

*Describe the proposal's purpose and the particular knowledge and skills to be acquired.*

Forensic accounting continues to be a growing sub-specialty. A working understanding of fraud and forensic accounting is beneficial for all practitioners, whether they be management, auditors, directors, or consumers. Thus, a program focused on forensic accounting would enhance the skills and value of the Isenberg graduate. The primary objective of the forensic accounting component of the accounting curriculum is for students to understand the role of forensic accounting in economic decision-making, financial reporting, disputes and investigations. A student should understand fundamental forensic accounting analysis and methods and be able to apply essential forensic accounting concepts in practice. The curriculum should introduce a broad range of forensic accounting issues and their impact on a variety of stakeholders. This track will also help prepare students who wish to take the Certified in Financial Forensics exam or the Certified Fraud Examiner test and earn the CFF or CFE credential.

#### **Resources**

*If this proposal requires no additional resources, say so and briefly explain why. If this proposal requires additional resources, explain how they will be paid for. For proposals involving instruction, indicate how many new enrollments are expected and whether the courses have room to accommodate them.*

No additional resources are required for this new track. We are already offering the classes that would form the 9 credits required for the forensic track. There is room to accommodate additional students in the sections we are offering currently.

#### **Curriculum**

*Provide a curriculum outline showing degree program requirements, requirements of any existing concentrations, requirements of proposed concentration, and how they relate. You may include this outline and any additional documents as attachments below.*

There are no concentrations in the MS Accounting program at this time. The degree requirements to complete the forensic accounting track is attached.

**MOTION:** That the Faculty Senate approve the Creation of a Concentration: Forensic Accounting, as presented in Sen. Doc. No. 18-078.  
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