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SR-02-03-(61) 91 CC

Marshall University

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**CURRICULUM COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION**

SR-02-03-(61) 91 CC

Recommends approval of the attached "Proposal to Reactivate Degree Program in Computer Science."

RATIONALE:

There are a number of reasons for reactivating the Bachelor of Science degree program in Computer Science (CS). These reasons include:

- a. Based upon many informal conversations with students, parents, MU admissions, the MU Honors Program, and others, there exists a high level of interest in CS among potential students. It is estimated that a CS program would attract 30 to 40 new students per year and graduate approximately 20 students per year.
- b. A CS degree would attract students who would not otherwise attend Marshall and who have relatively high capabilities in mathematics, science, and technology.
- c. A CS degree will meet the demands and expectations of prospective students and is consistent with the areas of emphasis delineated in the Mission of the University, a segment of which is shown below. In summary, a CS degree fits within the mission of the University and will help the University fulfill its responsibilities relative to the need for technically-educated personnel and advancement of economic development in the region.

FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT:

APPROVED BY SENATE: *Jan Sof* DATE: 5-13-03

DISAPPROVED BY SENATE: _____ DATE: _____

UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT:

APPROVED: *Jan Sof* DATE: 5/21/03

DISAPPROVED: _____ DATE: _____

COMMENTS: _____

To: University Curriculum Committee

From: Joseph Bragin, Dean COS
Betsy Dulin Dean CITE
Daniel Dementiev, COS
Ralph Oberste-Vorth, COS
Herb Tesser, CITE
Bill Pierson, CITE

Date: 4/16/2003

Subject: Proposal to Reactivate Degree Program in Computer Science

At the direction of Provost Sarah Denman, a committee was formed to explore the feasibility of reactivating the degree program in Computer Science and Software Development, a degree suspended in 1998. The committee, whose members are listed above, was formulated to create a joint development effort between the COS and CITE in order to take advantage of the expertise that exists in both colleges in the area of computing. The committee has met throughout the spring semester and, in consultation with other faculty of the two colleges, has concluded that it is not only feasible to reactivate the CS degree, it is highly desirable to do so given that a CS degree fits within the mission of the university, would respond to the interest that is evident among students in the region served by Marshall University, and would complement a number of other University initiatives. Furthermore, the committee feels that the CS degree can be reactivated in a very cost effective manner given the number of existing courses, faculty, and facilities that already exists to support other computing oriented programs offered by the two colleges.

The committee recommends that approval be granted to notify the Higher Education Policy Commission of Marshall University's intent to reactivate the degree in Computer Science beginning Fall 2004. Detailed planning for the program will take place during the Fall 2003 term, at which time a detailed program description, including all necessary course addition and modification forms, will be submitted to the University approval process.