1. I would recommend that the topics below be removed from the curriculum for BCOM 412.

* *Pronouncements on accounting standards and related matters of accountancy and other bodies.*

1. In place of the topics above, I recommend the following topic instead.

* *Information system audits, covering the following areas.*
  + *Significance and justification for Information systems audits.*
  + *The ISM Model*
  + *The pillars of information security management (ISM).*
    - *Information security policy.*
    - *Security awareness.*
    - *Identity and access management.*
    - *Network and data security.*
    - *Monitoring.*
    - *Risk assessment.*
    - *Contingency and contingency planning.*
  + *Minimum Information system controls to assess in a financial audit.*

1. Justification

*Most of the financial transactions and financial reports are captured/ generated using computerised information systems. Organizations are increasingly adopting IT to provide services remotely (e.g. the e-government initiative by the government of Kenya). Other examples of information system that capture, transmit financial transactions include the ATM’s, Mobile Phones (in case of mobile banking, mobile phone cash transfer services), e-commerce systems e.t.c. There are security implications that accompany such platforms, including identity theft (like the common m-pesa scams by criminals), systems failure among others.*

*Thus if we do not have adequate controls over the information systems used to capture financial transactions and generate financial reports, we may end up with faulty accounting reports that mislead the investors who base their investment decisions out of such reports. As such, no financial audit is deemed complete without an assessment of the controls and security over the information systems.*

*A major function of auditors, especially information audit is to safeguard assets. Information is an asset that is increasingly being targeted, stolen and sold. Credit card numbers of customers who shop online, for example, are being stolen and sold to criminals to steal cash from their accounts. With the use of debit cards and credit cards in Kenya rising, this will be a major area of concern. Thus auditors must be well versed on the audit of the security systems that host such sensitive information. To the extent that organisations rely on IT to run their businesses, it is important that every organization has a contingency plan in case of the failure of such information systems (for example, due to electricity failure, viruses that make systems crash, hardware failures, network failure e.t.c).*

1. My additional comment

*I would urge the faculty and the department to consider introducing a course (45 cf) on INFORMATION SYSTEMS AUDITING using the ISACA model curriculum which is available for utilization by universities for free. If the university adopts this curriculum, the graduates are exempt from certain requirements in the attainment of the Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA) certification, an internationally recognised professional qualification in information systems auditing. If interested, you may contact me for more information.*