3/8/2011

To: Dean Montemagno

From: Committee to form Engineering Technology

Subject: Committee report

Dear Dean Montemagno,

As per your assignment for the ad-hoc committee to convene and consider the possibility of merging Mechanical Engineering Technology (MET), Computer Engineering Technology (CET), and Electrical Engineering Technology (EET) into a single “Engineering Technology” (ET) program offering a Bachelor’s degree with the start date of fall 2012, I would like to inform you that the committee has met, and listed hereunder are its main findings and recommendations.

Committee Members:

Ihab Saad            Chair
Muthar Al-Ubaidi    MET faculty
Max Rabiee           EET/CET faculty
Adam Dehne           MET student dehneac@mail.uc.edu
John Carroll         ECET student carrolj2@mail.uc.edu
Ali Minai            EE faculty
Bob Rost             ME faculty
Teik Lim             School of Dynamic System (SDS) Director
Art Helmicki         School of Electronics and Computing Systems (SECS) Director
Allen Arthur         Associate Dean and Convener

Introduction:

The idea of combining multiple degree-granting Engineering Technology programs under one common umbrella was initiated by Dean Montemagno, in an attempt to reduce the number of undergraduate degrees offered by the college and trim the administrative excesses which might help with the current budget shortfalls. This idea of having a common degree in Engineering Technology (ET) is not unprecedented. Several academic institutions have adopted this approach, resulting in a “department” or “Division” of Engineering Technology, offering specialized tracks in such areas as Mechanical Engineering Technology, Electrical Engineering Technology, Civil Engineering Technology, and Surveying Engineering Technology, etc. Such Universities include, as a sample, Texas A & M University, University of Memphis, Temple University, New Jersey Institute of Technology, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, and University of Wisconsin (Stout). The programs offered under this setting focus on commonalities among the different disciplines of Engineering Technology, and offering
specializations, or tracks, in each separate discipline. The resulting degree is a Bachelor’s Degree in Engineering Technology, with a concentration in the relative area.

The Charge for the committee could be summarized as:

1) Determining which tracks in an engineering technology degree are in demand.
2) Determining the appropriate administrative structure.
3) Developing a curriculum to be available by the start of the Fall semester of 2012.

Goals:

1) Offer programs and graduates attractive to employers
2) Attain an enrollment in the 3rd year courses with about 50 students each
3) Gradually grow enrollment
4) Foster relationships with other programs (Engineering and other)
5) Be sure there are avenues available to students wishing to enroll in the Master’s in Engineering (MEng) programs

Committee Recommendations and Tasks Under Review:

While the committee looked at several models under consideration, it was clear that the timeframe to reach a conclusive result by March 10th was not feasible, as several arguments for the structuring of the common Engineering Technology program arose and were, at times, diametrically opposed. The arguments ranged between the importance of reflecting the discipline on the graduating student’s diploma, as a tool for marketing and student appreciation, to faculty being assigned to teach only ET courses, to having a separate “Division” for administering ET programs, to

1. Develop a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Engineering Technology formed from the existing MET, CET and EET.
2. Starting in the Fall semester of 2012 students will only be admitted to the Engineering Technology (ET) program with specialization in the abovementioned tracks.
3. Faculty involved with the program will maintain their appointment to either SDS or SECS for RPT, merit, and other personnel considerations, but will be assigned by the relevant School Directors to teach in the Division of ET. (SDS and SECS faculty do and will continue to teach both Engineering and ET courses)
4. Selected ET courses are approved and ordered in the relevant school. Upper level courses would be chosen from existing ones within the Schools, and new courses will be developed as needed. A committee of faculty that teach in ET is to be formed, and their main mandate will be developing and endorsing courses and curriculum changes specifically for ET, that would then go to the appropriate School Curriculum Committee and then to the College Curriculum Committee for their review and approval.
5. Following the first two years of Integrated Engineering (or common courses), students will specialize in a track in EET, CET or MET with future tracks to be developed later as reflected by the need from the industry.

6. Transfer students would be accepted only after the 3rd semester and then by individual review. Transfers would be accepted on a space available basis. FEP students would be accepted in the traditional process that already exists.

7. ET students would be advised by dedicated advisors for ET.

8. The College needs to insure that the path to EIT/PE remains open for ET students.

9. C1 and P1 forms will be completed for legacy students in MET, CET and EET but those students graduating after 2012 will eventually transition into ET to finish their degrees. A name change will be requested from OBR by converting an existing degree into ET. A new P1 will be developed by the May deadline allowing for fall 2012 students to begin the ET degree.

10. The committee recommends that a “division of Engineering Technology” be formed with a Division Chair to be named to oversee the administrative issues (enrollment, coordination, advising, co-op, placement, programs promotion, etc.)

**Conclusions:**

To further investigate the abovementioned recommendations, and put them into action, the committee will continue its meetings and deliberations with the main tasks of developing a detailed curriculum for the common first 3 semesters, and determine any additional needed courses to be developed thereafter. The Committee is planning to produce a report of its findings and final recommendations by the end of May 2011.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the college, and for any further clarifications / comments, please feel free to contact me.

Dr. Ihab M. H. Saad  
Associate Professor of Construction Management  
School of Advanced Structures  
College of Engineering and Applied Science