

ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY



University Curriculum Committee

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February 2, 2009

TO: Daniel Holland, Chairperson, Academic Senate
FROM: Carlyn Morenus, Chair, University Curriculum Committee
RE: Executive Summary of Major in Construction Management Proposal

The University Curriculum Committee has approved and is forwarding for Academic Senate review the attached proposal for a new Major in Construction Management, B.S.

The Department of Technology provided a reasonable rationale for changing the Construction Management Sequence in the Major in Industrial Technology into a B.S. degree in Construction Management,

- The Construction Management sequence requires 91 hours and has a discreet CIP code, is independently accredited by the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE), and has had steady enrollments of greater than 200 students annually since 2000.
- The Department of Technology program offerings have changed significantly since the early 1990s. At that time the Department truly did operate on a sequence model; the Industrial Technology major had a significant core and the sequence requirements were limited to 24-28 hours. Major curriculum changes in 1996 reduced the IT core and set the stage for moving sequences to major status.
- The purpose of the move toward major-oriented programs is to establish a curriculum structure that will allow Technology's disciplines to better serve students by maintaining contemporary offerings that are not constrained by the Department as a whole.
- A look at ISU's definition of a "major" and at the catalog requirements for TEC sequences reveals that they do indeed look more like majors than sequences. With the exception of technology related courses, there is little, if any, topical crossover among sequence areas. Given the curriculum structure and independence of the disciplines, Technology has had de-facto majors for over 10 years.
- The Department currently has three undergraduate majors: (1) Industrial Technology (comprised of four sequences: Construction Management, Graphic Communications, Industrial Computer Systems, and Integrated Manufacturing Systems), (2) Renewable Energy (new in 2007), and (3) Technology Education. With the advent of Renewable Energy, it has become apparent that the "major" model is the most functional model for curriculum flexibility, program marketing and recruitment, and development of alumni and industry support. Technology is investigating changing all of the existing IT sequences to majors, eventually.
- Visibility is another concern for sequences housed under the degree name of "Industrial Technology." For students who explore major and career choices at ISU (Find a Major or First View), Construction Management is not easily located as it is an area of study (sequence) under Technology. Further, students are not likely to understand the term "Industrial Technology" when pursuing majors.

The University Curriculum Committee supports the proposal to add the new degree in Construction Management.

Attachments