

ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY



University Curriculum Committee

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September 23, 2011

TO: Daniel Holland, Chairperson, Academic Senate
FROM: Jean Standard, Chair, University Curriculum Committee
RE: Executive Summary of Proposal for New Major in Engineering Technology

The University Curriculum Committee has approved and is forwarding for Academic Senate consideration the attached Department of Technology proposal for a new degree in in Engineering Technology.

The proposal is to change the existing Engineering Technology Sequence within the B.S. in Industrial Technology to a B.S. degree in Engineering Technology. The course requirements remain the same, and therefore no new resources are required.

The Department of Technology provided a substantial rationale for proposing the new major:

- The current major name, “Industrial Technology” does not serve the Engineering Technology program well from a recruitment standpoint, nor does it align well with the profession.
- Engineering Technology can be accredited by the Association of Technology, Management and Applied Engineering (ATMAE) or the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET). These accrediting organizations exist to enhance the quality of undergraduate baccalaureate engineering technology programs in North America and the preparedness of graduates to enter the profession.
- Moving this program to a stand-alone major will provide more flexibility and give the faculty the option to pursue ABET accreditation in the future, or stay with ATMAE accreditation.
- The ability to recruit students to the program would be significantly enhanced. High school students may become interested in the discipline through Project Lead the Way (PLTW) and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) programs, or through involvement in high school student organizations. These students are not likely to understand the term “Industrial Technology” when researching majors, but likely will be more attracted to “Engineering Technology.” It is expected that there will be an increase in recruitment of higher quality students who otherwise might apply to an engineering school.
- Another benefit would be increased support for Illinois State’s Educating Illinois goals, as well as the College of Applied Science and Technology and Department of Technology goals.
- It is anticipated that there will be increased recognition of the program from employers hiring graduates; and also improved program marketing through enhanced visibility to students and parents.
- They expect increased industry involvement through resource sharing and donations.

The University Curriculum Committee supports the proposal to add the new Major in Engineering Technology.

Enclosures

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