

Memorandum

To: HSSEAS Faculty Executive Committee

From: Greg Pottie, Chair, EE Department

Date: 3/4/16

Subject: Change of Department Name

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Proposal:

The name of the Electrical Engineering Department will be changed to the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, effective the 2017/18 academic year.

Discussion:

At the prior FEC meeting, a proposal was made to change the name of the EE Department and all of its degree programs to ECE, effective the 2016/17 academic year. A number of objections were raised by representatives of the Computer Science Department. In particular it was argued that undergraduate students whose degree includes the phrase “computer engineering” should have taken a set of courses that objectively amount to computer engineering, rather than merely having had the opportunity to do so. Subsequently, at the suggestion of the Chair of CS, a joint task force of the two departments was created to work on an alternative proposal for the undergraduate program. The task force is seeking to design a jointly managed Computer Engineering degree, so that the EE (ECE) department will offer an EE degree in essentially its present form, and will share the new CE degree. Two meetings of the task force have already been held with good progress. The goal is for the CE degree proposal to be ready for the FEC no later than early Fall, so that it can be implemented in the 2017/18 academic year. This plan was discussed at a special EE faculty meeting on 2/14/16. The consensus was that this solution will be better for both the School and the students than the original plan.

The question of graduate degree names will be re-considered by the EE department, with a proposal made in early Fall.

Catalog deadlines are such that a Department name change could occur and we would miss the opportunity to rename courses as ECE. To avoid this possibility and to align the name change with the establishment of the CE degree program, it is proposed that the Department name change be delayed by one academic year. Faculty sentiment in the EE Department is strongly in favor of having the FEC to be on record as approving the change so that we can let our stakeholders plan accordingly.