MEMORANDUM

TO: Nariman Farvardin
   Dean, A. James Clark School of Engineering

FROM: Phyllis Peres
       Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs

SUBJECT: Proposal to delete the B.S. Engineering – Engineering Option (PCC log no. 60003)

In its meeting on October 6, the Senate PCC Committee unanimously approved your proposal to delete the B.S. in Engineering – Engineering Option. A copy of the approved proposal is enclosed.

The changes are effective for Fall 2006. The College should ensure that the change is fully described in the Undergraduate Catalog and in all relevant descriptive materials, and that all advisors are informed.

CWR/

Enclosure

cc: Richard Ellis, Chair, Senate PCC Committee
    Sarah Bauder, Office of Student Financial Aid
    Mary Giles, University Senate
    Barbara Hope, Data Administration
    Kathy McAdams, Undergraduate Studies
    Anne Turkos, Archives
    Linda Yokoi, Office of the Registrar
    Gary Pertmer, A. James Clark School of Engineering
THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK
PROGRAM/CURRICULUM PROPOSAL

DIRECTIONS:
- Provide one form with original approval signatures in lines 1 - 4 for each proposed action. Keep this form to one page in length.
- Early consultation with the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning & Programs is strongly recommended if there are questions or concerns, particularly with new programs.
- Please submit the signed form to Claudia Rector, Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs, 1119 Main Administration Building, Campus.
- Please email the rest of the proposal as an MSWord attachment to pcc-submissions@umd.edu.

DATE SUBMITTED 6 September 2006

PCC LOG NO. 06003

COLLEGE/SCHOOL Engineering

DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM B.S. Engineering – Engineering Option

PROPOSED ACTION (A separate form for each) ADD_____ DELETE X CHANGE_____

DESCRIPTION (Provide a succinct account of the proposed action. Details should be provided in an attachment. Provide old and new sample programs for curriculum changes.)

Please see attached.

JUSTIFICATION/REASONS/RESOURCES (Briefly explain the reason for the proposed action. Identify the source of new resources that may be required. Details should be provided in an attachment.)

Please see attached.

APPROVAL SIGNATURES

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<tr>
<th>APPROVAL SIGNATURES</th>
<th>DATE</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Department Committee Chair</td>
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<td>2. Department Chair</td>
<td>6 Sept 06</td>
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<td>3. College/School PCC Chair</td>
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<td>4. Dean</td>
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<td>5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required)</td>
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<td>6. Chair, Senate PCC</td>
<td>Oct 5, 2006</td>
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<td>7. Chair of Senate</td>
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<td>8. Vice President for Academic Affairs &amp; Provost</td>
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We are requesting the immediate termination of the B.S. Engineering – Engineering Option degree program. The rationale for this request is presented below.

1. Program Purpose

When the B.S Engineering program was established more than 25 years ago, it was designed to allow a student to combine course sequences, at the junior/senior level, in two engineering disciplines (primary and secondary fields). Along with a number of additional technical electives, the student would be able to have a unique multidisciplinary program which would not be available in either the primary or secondary field degree program.

Until about ten years ago, each of the engineering degree programs was fairly rigid, with few elective courses outside of the discipline available to the student. However, significant curriculum revisions by each of the degree programs have changed this situation, resulting in more opportunities for a student to take technical courses outside of his/her specific degree program. As a result, the primary purpose of the B.S. Engineering – Engineering Option program is, for the most part, now possible for a student in each of the other ABET accredited degree programs of the School.

2. Program Size

The B.S. Engineering program is extremely small. In the past ten years, there has been a total of 19 graduates, with no more than 4-5 students in the major in any year (in a number of years, no students were in the major). Of the 19 graduates, only six truly followed the intended purpose of the degree program – that is, a well designed multidisciplinary curriculum. Each of the other 13 graduates started in another degree program in the School and ran into academic difficulty (typically course repeat and/or total number of repeat credit violations) and, as a result, was unable to get the desired degree. The student then switched to the B.S. Engineering degree and, by taking a few additional courses in another engineering discipline, was able to graduate with an ABET accredited degree. This ‘back door’ is clearly not the intended purpose of the B.S. Engineering program. (The non-ABET accredited B.S. Engineering – Applied Science Option is not being eliminated and, therefore, would be available to these students.)

3. ABET Accreditation

In 2000, ABET changed its accreditation policy to student outcomes-based. As a result, the student curriculum assessment process required for ABET accreditation of the B.S. Engineering – Engineering Option program has become extremely difficult, since each student has a unique academic program. This process requires a large amount of faculty time which, considering the very small number of students in the program, is not a good use of faculty resources.

Currently, there are no students registered for the B.S. Engineering – Engineering Option major. We are requesting that the program be eliminated immediately, and that no student be allowed to change into the major.