May 16, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Herbert Rabin  
    Interim Dean, A. James Clark School of Engineering

FROM: Phyllis Perego  
    Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs

SUBJECT: Proposal to offer Reliability Engineering options online (PCC log no. 07074)

Your proposal to offer the Reliability Engineering options in the Professional Master of Engineering and the Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Engineering through an online format has been administratively approved. A copy of the approved proposal is attached.

The approval is effective immediately. The Clark School should ensure that the change is described in the Graduate Catalog and in all relevant descriptive materials, and that all advisors are informed.

CWR/

Enclosures

cc: Carmen Balthrop, Chair, Senate PCC Committee
    Sarah Bauder, Office of Student Financial Aid
    Reka Montfort, University Senate
    Barbara Hope, Data Administration
    Denise Nadasen, Institutional Research & Planning
    Anne Turkos, Archives
    Linda Yokoi, Office of the Registrar
    Mary Ann Ottinger, Graduate School
    Gary Pertmer, A. James Clark School of Engineering
    George Syromos, Office of Advanced Engineering Education
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 02/06/2008

COLLEGE/SCHOOL ENGR

DEPARTMENT/PROGRAM OAEE

PROPOSED ACTION (A separate form for each) ADD X DELETE 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.)

Creation of an online option in Reliability Engineering to the existing Professional Master of Engineering program and an online option in Reliability Engineering to the existing Graduate Certificate in Engineering program through the Office of Advanced Engineering Education.

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.)

See attached.

APPROVAL SIGNATURES - Please print name, sign, and date

1. Department Committee Chair

2. Department Chair

3. College/School PCC Chair

4. Dean

5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required)

6. Chair, Senate PCC

7. Chair of Senate

8. Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost

VPAAP 8-05
Proposal for approving an on-line option in Reliability Engineering to the existing Professional Master of Engineering program and an on-line option in Reliability Engineering to the existing Graduate Certificate in Engineering program through the Office of Advanced Engineering Education

Reliability Engineering (RE) currently exists as an academic option under the Professional Master of Engineering (ENPM) Program and the Graduate Certificate in Engineering (GCEN) Program. This option was first made available in Fall 1994 when the ENPM Program was created and in Fall 2000 when the GCEN Program materialized. Since then, it has been a niche area not only for students who are looking for reliability and risk assessment expertise but also across other engineering options, such as electrical and computer, mechanical, software, and systems, which are also academic options available through the ENPM/GCEN Programs.

The high interest in RE locally and the lack of an equivalent option available from other top engineering schools nationwide necessitate offering RE on-line nationally and internationally. In its on-campus form, a student is awarded the Master of Engineering degree in the RE option after having completed ten, 3-credit courses, and one, 1-credit seminar course. RE courses have been web-cast informally since the Spring 2005 semester via our Distance Education Technology and Services (DETS) Office in the Clark School of Engineering. We have already recorded the courses needed but expect to have additional courses web-cast in the future.

Therefore, we propose an on-line option to the existing Professional Master of Engineering program in RE (MERE) leading to a Master of Engineering degree and an on-line option to the existing Graduate Certificate in Engineering program in RE (GCRE) leading to a Graduate Certificate in Engineering degree. We will start the on-line option in the Fall 2008 semester by offering at least two core courses in that term and at least two courses in every subsequent semester. A variety of elective courses will also be offered on a regular basis. It is expected that a student could complete the MERE program within 24 months and the GCRE program within 12 months assuming taking two courses in every semester.

The faculty who teach for the on-campus program will also teach for the on-line programs. The standards of good practice observed for the on-campus program will equally apply to the on-line version. In particular, faculty support and resources for learning will be provided by the DETS office to our on-line students.

Like all of the academic options offered through OAEE (including the on-line Fire Protection Engineering (ENGF) and the on-line Project Management (GCPM/MEPM)), these two new on-line RE options will be administered through OAEE making sure that the necessary student services are provided. All content will be provided by the Mechanical Engineering Department’s Reliability Engineering group making sure that both commitment to support the programs and academic excellence are in place. Evaluation and assessment of the programs will be performed by both Reliability Engineering and OAEE, and their delivery through the DETS Office will ensure a state-of-the-art accessibility of the associated courses.