November 9, 2015

MEMORANDUM

TO:        William Cohen  
            Associate Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Studies  

            Darryll Pines  
            Dean, A. James Clark School of Engineering  

FROM:      Elizabeth Beise  
            Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs  

SUBJECT:   Proposal to Move the Upper Division Certificate in Science, Technology, and Society from Undergraduate Studies to the A. James Clark School of Engineering  
            (PCC Log No. 15007)

At its meeting on October 2, 2015, the Senate Committee on Programs, Curricula and Courses approved the proposal to move the Upper Division Certificate in Science, Technology, and Society from the Office of Undergraduate Studies to the A. James Clark School of Engineering. A copy of the proposal is attached.

The change is effective Spring 2016. Please ensure that the change is fully described in all relevant descriptive materials.

MDC/  
Enclosure  

cc:        Andrew Harris, Chair, Senate PCC Committee  
           Barbara Gill, Office of Enrollment Management  
           Reka Montfort, University Senate  
           Erin Taylor, Division of Information Technology  
           Pam Phillips, Institutional Research, Planning & Assessment  
           Anne Turkos, University Archives  
           Linda Yokoi, Office of the Registrar  
           William Fourney, A. James Clark School of Engineering  
           Cynthia Kay Stevens, Office of Undergraduate Studies
THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK
PROGRAM/CURRICULUM/UNIT PROPOSAL

- Please email the rest of the proposal as an MSWord attachment to pcc-submissions@umd.edu.
- Please submit the signed form to the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs, 1119 Main Administration Building, Campus.

College/School:
Please also add College/School Unit Code-First 8 digits:
Unit Codes can be found at: https://hyperion.umd.edu/reports/units.htm 01203200 A. James Clark School of Engineering

Department/Program:
Please also add Department/Program Unit Code-Last 7 digits: 1320110 Dean Engineering Undergraduate Advising

Type of Action (choose one):
- Curriculum change (including informal specializations)
- Curriculum change for an LEP Program
- Renaming of program or formal Area of Concentration
- Addition/deletion of formal Area of Concentration
- Suspend/delete program

Italics indicate that the proposed program action must be presented to the full University Senate for consideration.

Summary of Proposed Action:
The Director of the Science, Technology & Society College Park Scholars undergraduate certificate program and the A. James Clark School of Engineering are proposing the move of the administrative home of the STS Certificate Program from Undergraduate Studies to the Office of Undergraduate Advising & Academic Support with the A. James Clark Engineering School beginning in the 2015-2016 academic year. This action is requested for the following reasons: 1) the STS certificate program would be better served in an academic unit whose administrative and teaching resources align with those of the STS program; 2) the director of the STS Certificate Program is currently and historically been a faculty member in the Engineering School. If approved by PCC, the administrative move of the STS certificate program would not require additional funding.

APPROVAL SIGNATURES - Please print name, sign, and date. Use additional lines for multi-unit programs.

1. Department Committee Chair
   8/5/2015 (David C. Tomblin)

2. Department Chair
   8/5/2015 (UGST)

3. College/School PCC Chair
   8/5/2015 (ENG2)

4a. UGST Dean
   8/5/2015

4b. ENGR Dean
   8/5/2015

5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required)

6. Chair, Senate PCC
   10/2/2015

7. University Senate Chair (if required)
   11/9/2015

8. Senior Vice President and Provost
Rationale:

We are proposing that the administrative home of the Science, Technology and Society Undergraduate Certificate Program (STS) be moved from Undergraduate Studies to Engineering Sciences (ENES) within the A. James Clark School of Engineering beginning in academic year 2015-2016. The STS certificate program historically and currently has been directed by faculty in the Engineering School. Moving the governance of STS to the Clark School will streamline the administrative oversight of the program. In particular, it will help clarify the awarding of the certificate through the degree clearinghouse and improve recruitment of students into the program. In addition, while much of the coursework is interdisciplinary, drawing from departments across campus, the core coursework, including the capstone (ENES 440), already has its home the Clark School.

History of Units and their Relationship

Engineering Sciences (ENES): ENES is a broad unit within A. James Clark School of Engineering that hosts, the Keystone Program, Engineering Study Abroad, Women in Engineering, Center for Minorities in Engineering and Science, and other programs that have broad implications for engineering but don’t fit nicely into traditional departments (e.g., Aerospace). It is also where the Engineering Office for Undergraduate Advising and Academic Success and the Engineering Co-op and Career Services Office are housed. Furthermore, it is the faculty home of the STS College Park Scholars program, which includes the Director of STS Scholars and the STS Certificate Program.

STS Certificate Program: The STS Certificate Program is a 21-credit undergraduate certificate program that investigates the relationships among science, technology and society. All course work in this program must explore science and technology issues from a humanities and social sciences perspective. Students enrolling in this program must take 9 credits of 100-200 level courses, 9 credits of upper level courses, and the STS Capstone (ENES 440). All students completing this certificate must earn a 2.0 cumulative certificate grade point average and receive no lower than a C- in any of their certificate courses. A student's individual course of study may not exceed these maximums: 9 credits of courses applied to the student's major; 3 credits of Special or Selected Topics courses; 9 credits of courses taken outside UMCP; and 6 credits of courses with the AREC, ECON and GVPT prefixes. The program has historically functioned this way for undergraduates to conceptually frame their general education and upper level education requirements.

The program is run by a director that teaches the STS Capstone (ENES 440) and advises all enrolled students on their capstone project and which courses they should take to satisfy the certificate requirements. ENES 440 is the only course specifically staffed and taught by this program. All other courses are drawn from existing courses that touch on STS themes taught in other departments around campus. When the current director was hired to run the College Park STS program in 2013, he developed an interest in revitalizing the certificate program for two reasons: 1) to serve students finishing the College Park Scholars program that are interested in pursuing a more comprehensive STS project; and 2) provide a home for students not in the College Park Scholars program an opportunity to pursue STS projects. There are currently six students enrolled in the STS Certificate Program.

History of the relationship between ENES and STS Certificate Program: James M. Wallace, Professor Emeritus of Mechanical Engineering, created the STS Undergraduate Certificate Program in the mid-1990s in order to satiate a growing interest among students about social, historical, political, cultural, and ethical issues associated with science and technology. Some recent projects include social factors that affect retention in engineering programs and the evolution of fire protection engineering in the early 20th century. Historically, the program
experienced its highest enrollment when it was part of ENES. The STS Certificate Capstone still has the ENES course prefix (ENES 440) and has always been taught by faculty hired through the Engineering School. The program originally was situated in ENES, but moved to Undergraduate Studies where it currently exists. During this time, the program has been on the books but hasn’t enjoyed high levels of participation. (Email attached as support from UGST)

The Benefits of Moving the STS Certificate Program to ENES

Moving the home of the STS certificate program to ENES would confer several benefits on the program:

1) Housing the program in the same School as the director of the program would facilitate and improve administrative oversight of the program

2) Currently there is no clear administrative structure in place between UGST and the STS program that facilitates degree clearance of students graduating with the STS certificate. Moving the STS program into ENES would allow the director of the program to work closely with ENES staff on degree clearance and other administrative issues associated with the program

3) Stronger connections with ENES and Engineering School staff and faculty will help with program recruitment. Historically, many of the students interested in STS topics have come from the Engineering School. Since this is the pool of students at the university most likely to be interested in STS, it makes sense for the program to be situated in the Engineering School.

Resources Required:

Budget: This move does not require additional funds.

Space for STS: Since this is primarily an administrative move, no additional space requirements are necessary. The director of STS will continue to have office space within College Park Scholars.

Director’s Position: The funds for the director’s position come for the Engineering School. The director’s primary duties are as Director of College Park Scholars, Science, Technology and Society Program, a two-year freshmen/sophomore undergraduate citation based on a living-learning community experience. The STS certificate program is a separate upper level undergraduate program from this. The current director’s offer letter specifies that, while his primary duties are to administer the College Park Scholars STS program, he is obligated to teach ENES 440 (STS Certificate Capstone) once per semester as needed and to administer the Certificate program. This has been the historical arrangement for faculty hired to direct the College Park Scholars STS program.
Hi David,

Thanks for your note. When we put in the proposal for the ACES minor, we used print-outs of the email messages. This is consistent with what I’ve seen on the senate PCC committee, so the combination of your and my prior emails should work just fine. If you’re concerned, however, I can put it on letterhead and send it via campus mail.

Warm regards,
Cindy

On Thu, Jul 23, 2015 at 7:27 AM, David Tomblin <dtomblin@umd.edu> wrote:
Hi Cindy,

Thanks for the support. Would you be able to put a statement of support in a formal letter or memo or will the e-mail suffice for the PCC proposal? I have never done a PCC proposal before, so I don’t know what the proper way to convey the information is.

Best,
David

David Tomblin, PhD
Director: Science, Technology and Society
College Park Scholars Program
University of Maryland, College Park

Phone: 301.405.0527
E-mail: dtomblin@umd.edu
http://www.scholars.umd.edu/programs/sts/faculty

Good afternoon Dave,

Thanks for your note. I’ve discussed the matter with interim UGST Dean Doug Roberts, and we support your initiative to move the STS certificate program from UGST to the Clark School of Engineering. The Office of Undergraduate Studies is not a college per se, so it would be logical to house this certificate program in a formal degree-granting unit such as the Clark School.

Please let us know if we can be of further assistance in this matter.
Dear Cynthia,

This note is in regards to moving the Science, Technology and Society Undergraduate Certificate Program from Undergraduate Studies to the A. James Clark School of Engineering. I am currently writing up the PCC proposal to request this move and I need a letter to include in the proposal that states that you (UGST) support the transition of the STS Certificate program from Undergraduate Studies to the Engineering School. Please let me know if you have any questions or need further information from me. Thanks for your help on this matter.

Best Regards,

David

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http://www.scholars.umd.edu/programs/sts/faculty

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