

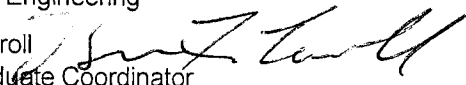


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Memorandum

To: Warren Viessman
Associate Dean for Academic Programs
College of Engineering

From: Bruce Carroll 
Undergraduate Coordinator

Date: 3/10/2003

Re: Proposal to Eliminate the BS-Engineering Science Degree Program

Attached is a proposal from the MAE department to eliminate the BS-Engineering Science degree program. The MAE faculty have voted in favor of this proposal. Initial steps toward the elimination of this degree program have already been taken in coordination with Dr. Earle and Dr. Viessman. We now ask that the College of Engineering Curriculum Committee approve this proposal and forward it to the College of Engineering faculty for a vote.

Proposal to Eliminate the Engineering Science Bachelor of Science Degree Program

Submitted by the Department of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering

Definitions:

BS-ASE – Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering

BS-ENS – Bachelor of Science in Engineering Science

BS-ME – Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering

Proposal to Eliminate the Undergraduate Bachelor of Science in Engineering Science Degree Program:

The department of mechanical and aerospace engineering currently administers the BS-ASE, BS-ME and BS-ENS degree programs. The MAE department requests that the BS-ENS degree program be eliminated effective at the end of the Spring 2005 term. A discussion of the motivation for this request follows. The impact on the MAE department is discussed and the impact on our students is addressed. A transition plan is also discussed.

Motivation:

The mechanical and aerospace engineering department was recently formed by the merger of the department of aerospace engineering, mechanics & engineering science with the department of mechanical engineering. Part of the motivation for this merger was an acknowledgement of the technical and intellectual similarities between the BS-ASE, BS-ME and BS-ENS degrees and a desire to streamline the course offerings and to improve the coordination between related technical areas.

The majority of students (approx. 95%) currently majoring in the BS-ENS degree program have a concentration area of biomechanics. The BS-ME curriculum has been revised and is now highly integrated with the minor in biomechanics. With these changes, the career goals of BS-ENS students can be easily met within the recently revised BS-ME degree program. The BS-ME degree also has much greater name recognition with potential employers, which will help our graduates with initial job placement.

With the creation of a separate biomedical engineering department and anticipated creation of a BS degree in biomedical engineering, we expect a significant reduction in student enrollment in the BS-ENS program. This anticipated decrease in undergraduate BS-ENS enrollment is an additional motivation for eliminating the BS-ENS degree program.

A final motivation for eliminating the BS-ENS degree program is to streamline the advising and administrative workload within the MAE department. Since the academic and career goals of BS-ENS students may be met within the BS-ME degree, we find it difficult to justify the administrative burden associated with the BS-ENS degree program.

Impact On The Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department:

- 1) Decreased administrative burden for student records, advising and accreditation tasks.
- 2) Streamlined course offerings.
- 3) Decreased confusion in communication with high school and community college counselors. Prospective students have historically had a poor understanding of the career options and degree requirements for the BS-ENS program.
- 4) The faculty of the MAE department voted to eliminate the BS-ENS degree program. There was broad consensus that this was in the best interest of the faculty and students of the MAE department.

Impact On Students:

- 1) Increased employment options for students with the minor in biomechanics will result. The BS-ENS program has severe name recognition problems with prospective employers. The BS-ME degree offers increased professional flexibility, especially for the initial job search after graduation.
- 2) Advising will be improved by offering only two degree programs in the MAE department.
 - a. Three degree programs within one department will contribute to confusion during upper division advising.
 - b. For the lower division, we have arranged the BS-ASE and BS-ME programs such that the first five semesters are identical. The BS-ENS degree program has some necessary differences in the first five semesters.
- 3) There is improved availability of upper division courses in BS-ME degree vs. BS-ENS degree. Due to the larger enrollment in the BS-ME program, most upper division courses are available a minimum of twice per year. Many of the courses required in the BS-ENS degree were only available once per year.
- 4) During exit interviews with the Spring 2002 graduating class, all graduating students felt that eliminating the BS-ENS program and consolidating the biomechanics courses within the BS-ME program was desirable.

Transition Plan:

- 1) Currently, no students are being admitted to the BS-ENS degree program.
- 2) We currently have 33 upper division students still enrolled in the BS-ENS degree program. We expect about 15 of these to graduate Spring 2003 and the remainder to graduate by Spring 2004.
- 3) The terminal graduation opportunity for BS-ENS students will be the end of the Spring 2005 term.