

College of Engineering
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

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To: University Curriculum Committee
From: Dean Cammy Abernathy
Date: July 15, 2010
Subject: Formation of the Engineering School of Sustainable Infrastructure and Environment

The faculty (tenured and tenure-track) of the Departments of Civil and Coastal Engineering and Environmental Engineering Sciences agree by a vote of 22 in favor, 4 against and one abstention and 13 in favor, 2 against and one absent respectively to form a School of Sustainable Infrastructure and the Environment. The final memorandum of understanding that was approved is attached to this request.

In brief, the school is an administrative structure. The departments will continue to exist and have control over their own curriculum, T&P, degree certification and accreditation. Each department head will report to the School director. The School will have a single budget and staff overseen by the School Director. Most engineering colleges do not have distinct civil and environmental programs, so this will move us more toward the mainstream. The enrollment, faculty numbers, and research expenditures will compare favorably with top institutions such as Illinois, Berkeley, and Texas-Austin. This may help with external program rankings. There are additional advantages in administrative flexibility and efficiency.

In addition to administrative advantages gained immediately, we anticipate over time additional academic advantages. We anticipate faculty will begin discussion of coordination of the curriculum and this may result in changes to degree programs. We expect research collaboration will increase and we anticipate co-locating faculty over time. New hires are more likely to be interdisciplinary and will help bridge the research areas of the departments.

Discussions began on this change almost one year ago. A committee of faculty from both departments was formed to develop a consensus structure. Meetings of the faculty in each department were held to discuss the proposal and refine it. Input from the faculty council (the college shared governance body) was sought at two different meetings. Concerns were addressed about budget impact and whether a merger of the departments should be sought instead. Budget implications are not a problem, there is a potential for savings and not additional costs. A merger was considered and found not acceptable as some thought their identity and programs would be threatened. Final voting came from both sets of faculty in the spring with over 80% approval.

We request that the University Curriculum Committee approve this change as required by senate by-laws. There is no change to current degree programs. The departments control curriculum and the only change to the approval process is the school director will sign off before items leave the school to come to the college curriculum committee.

Memorandum of Understanding

The faculty (tenured and tenure-track) of the Departments of Civil and Coastal Engineering and Environmental Engineering Sciences agree by a vote of 22 in favor, 4 against and one abstention and 13 in favor, 2 against and one absent respectively to form a School whose structure and operation are outlined below.

Administration of the Engineering School of Sustainable Infrastructure and Environment

The School will be comprised of the departments of Civil and Coastal Engineering and Environmental Engineering Sciences. The School will be managed by a School Director. Each department will be assigned a Department Head. The School will have one budget for the operation of the unit. All staff will be funded and supervised by the School, with the exception of the departmental advising staff who will be funded by the School but supervised by the Department Head. Though staff will be centrally funded, they will be distributed throughout the School in a manner designed to optimize the service to faculty and students.

Appointment and Responsibilities of the School Director

The Director of the School will be chosen by a process involving a committee containing an equal number of faculty from each department. The committee may also include members from other constituent groups, such as students, staff or alumni, as deemed necessary by the dean of the college. The committee will consist of equal representation from each department in each of these categories if they are included in the committee. Other representatives from outside of the two departments, such as a department chair from one of the other departments in the college, an Assoc. Dean of the college etc., may be appointed as deemed necessary by the dean. The search committee will be led by a Dept. Chair from outside the school or by an Assoc. Dean. Faculty in both departments will provide input to the search committee regarding the candidates. Final choice for Director will be made by the Dean. The School Director must hold tenure in either the CCE or EES Depts. upon their appointment as Director.

The Director will be responsible for:

- The development and implementation of a strategic plan and vision for the School
- the maintenance and success of each of the two departments (CCE and EES) housed in the School and all three existing degree programs (Civil Engineering, Coastal & Oceanographic Engineering, and Environmental Engineering Sciences)
- faculty assignments and evaluations, including tenure and promotion. The Director will consider recommendations of faculty assignments made by

Department Heads based on the teaching, research, and service demands of the departments.

- faculty development
- all budgetary matters
- supervision of fiscal and administrative staff except those reporting to the college, i.e. the fiscal officer and the contracts and grants specialist
- development activities
- supervision of Department Heads
- representing the School at Administrative Council meetings and lunches
- facilitation of a collegial relationship in and between the two departments
- all other duties currently performed by the department chairs of the CCE and EES Departments that are not included in the Department Heads responsibilities outlined below.

Appointment and Responsibilities of the Department Heads

The School Director, in consultation with the faculty of the relevant department, will appoint one Department Head for CCE and one Department Head for EES. It is anticipated that these appointments will be made internally. Appointment of external candidates to the Department Head positions can be made if the School Director and the Department Faculty feel that an external hire is necessary for the success of the department. Selection of the Department Heads will comply with the procedure outlined in the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Both the School Director and the Department Heads will participate in commencement.

The Department Heads will be responsible for:

- Accreditation
- Advising and supervision of advising staff and faculty coordinators in their advising capabilities
- student petitions
- curriculum development
- regular communication with the Assoc. Deans of the college as needed to facilitate departmental academic functions
- other academic activities as assigned by the School Director.

Faculty Roles and Responsibilities

All matters currently subject to faculty votes within a department will stay within the respective departments. For example, votes on tenure and promotion and curriculum will be conducted by the faculty of the department. Faculty within the school will be tenured in a department. Faculty within a department will decide by majority vote whether or not to request graduate faculty status for a faculty in their department and whether or not to award courtesy, adjunct or affiliate faculty status. All current such appointments will remain in effect for the department in which they are held. Award of such status in one of the departments in the school does not automatically grant such

status in the other department. Upon formation of the school, a committee comprised of equal numbers of faculty from each department shall draft bylaws for the operation of the school which must be approved by a majority of faculty in each department before adoption.

Director's Advisory Council

An advisory council, with equal representation from each department, will be selected by the faculties of the two departments. This council will serve to advise the director on school policies and serve as a link between the departmental faculty and the director.

Resources to Facilitate Success of the School of ESSIE

To ensure the success of the School, the Dean of the college agrees to return the salary dollars associated with all vacated lines generated in the school back to the School for a period of five years, subject to any budget constraints which may be imposed by the University. Space to facilitate co-location will be made available. When the new Mechanical Sciences Building is completed, the School will be given the top floor of the building to facilitate research in the area of Sustainability. No faculty in either department will be required to move offices or laboratories.

From: "Burkhardt, R. Jeffrey" <burk@ufl.edu>
Subject: RE: School Formation
Date: October 27, 2010 3:27:55 PM EDT
To: Mark Law <law@tec.ufl.edu>
Cc: "Mair,Bernard A" <bamair@ufl.edu>, "Sanford,Ann Whitney" <wsanford@ufl.edu>

Mark,

The Sustainability Committee met this afternoon and talked about the formation of the School. It was generally agreed (as I suggested to you before) that adding 'Sustainability' to the name of the school is a good thing, so long as it does reflect either actual or planned changes in curricula nad/or research focused on or related to sustainability -- and is not just a "branding" move. As one committe member stated, the Sustainability Committee's mission is to promote the ideas of sustainability in instruction and research, and we are happy to endorse legitimate efforts to that end wherever they are found on campus. Thus, we wish you luck with the integration of the new school, are excited that there will be space in the new building where sustainability research and education specifically will take place, and hope that you will keep us in the loop as you move forward. In future communications this academic year at least, please contact Whitney Sanford, chair of the committee.

Thanks for informing me (us) of this exciting venture.

Jeff

Jeff Burkhardt
Professor, Ethics & Public Policy
Food & Resource Economics Department
University of Florida
Gainesville FL 32611-0240
352.392.1824 extension 314
burk@ufl.edu

From: Mark Law [law@tec.ufl.edu]
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2010 4:05 PM
To: Burkhardt, R. Jeffrey
Cc: Mair,Bernard A
Subject: Re: School Formation

This Wednesday works fine. I want to get it before the UCC and Grad Council's next meetings. The UCC asked me to check with you before bringing it back.

-Mark

On Oct 25, 2010, at 12:59 PM, Burkhardt, R. Jeffrey wrote:

Mark,

If you are not in a hurry, I would like to present this to the Sustainability Committee at our regular meeting Wednesday afternoon (10/27). Not that the committee has any say or oversight, just for their info and to see if any of them sees any roadblocks you might face from their respective chairs or deans.

I think it's a great idea, personally: anything anybody at UF can do to "sell" the notion tthat we're doing sustainability stuff is a good thing as far as I'm concerned.

Thanks for the heads up.

Jeff

Jeff Burkhardt
Professor, Ethics & Public Policy
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From: Mark Law [law@tec.ufl.edu]
Sent: Monday, October 25, 2010 11:10 AM
To: Burkhardt, R. Jeffrey
Cc: Mair, Bernard A
Subject: School Formation

Robert:

We have a plan to create a school from the departments of civil and coastal engineering and environmental engineering sciences. The new school would carry the name "Engineering School of Sustainable Infrastructure and Environment". Before approval, the University curriculum committee requested that I check with you for possible issues. The cover letter for the UCC is attached as is the MOU for school operation.

The Dean of DCP has approved. There is a meeting with Steve Humphrey, the school of natural resources director this afternoon. Overall, the change is primarily administrative. The departments would continue to exist under the umbrella of the school. I think this is more of an information item for you since Sustainable is in the title. However, if you do have concerns or think I should speak to other folks on campus, please let me know ASAP.

Please let me know if I can provide other information.

Mark E. Law, Professor and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs
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From: Paul Chadik <pchadik@ufl.edu>
Subject: Fwd: RE: Engineering School of Sustainable Infrastructure and Environment
Date: October 27, 2010 5:04:02 PM EDT
To: Mark Law <law@tec.ufl.edu>

Mark,

SNRE is on board. Please see below.

Thanks.

Paul

Paul A. Chadik, Ph.D., P.E.

Associate Professor

Chairman

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----- Original Message -----

Subject: RE: Engineering School of Sustainable Infrastructure and Environment

Date: Wed, 27 Oct 2010 15:33:32 -0400

From: Humphrey, Stephen R <humphrey@ufl.edu>

To: Chadik, Paul A <pchadik@ufl.edu>

Paul: SNRE has no objection to name or formation of the new school.

-Steve

Dr. Stephen R. Humphrey, Director,
School of Natural Resources and Environment,
Box 116455, 103 Black Hall, University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-6455 USA
Tel. 352-392-9230, Fax 352-392-9748
<http://snre.ufl.edu>

From: Paul Chadik [<mailto:pchadik@ufl.edu>]

Sent: Monday, October 25, 2010 2:34 PM

To: Humphrey, Stephen R

Cc: Mark Law

Subject: Engineering School of Sustainable Infrastructure and Environment

Steve,

Thanks for spending the time with me today to discuss the College of Engineering proposal to form a new school, the Engineering School of Sustainable Infrastructure and Environment. As always I enjoyed the discussion. I have attached the most recent memo of understanding outlining the administration of the school and the responsibilities of the director, department heads, and faculty.

So that we can continue with the process of approval through the university curriculum committee

and the faculty senate, I am requesting that you provide a comment that you have no objection to the formation of the school as described in the memo of understanding. You may do this in replying to this e-mail. We would like to get this on the agenda for the next UCC meeting, and the deadline for submitting agenda items is October 29.

Thanks.

With kindest regards,
Paul

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From: "Bloomquist,David G" <dave@ce.ufl.edu>
Subject: **FW: alternate title for the School**
Date: October 19, 2010 9:43:39 AM EDT
To: "Law,Mark E" <MLaw@eng.ufl.edu>

David Bloomquist, PhD, PE
Department of Civil and Coastal Engineering
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352 392-9537 x 1547

From: Carr,Margaret H [mailto:mcarr@UFL.EDU]
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2010 10:03 AM
To: Bloomquist,David G
Subject: RE: alternate title for the School

Dave:

I've talked it with the Dean and he is okay with the proposal.

Thanks for reconsidering.

Peggy

From: Dave bloomquist [dave@ce.ufl.edu]
Sent: Thursday, October 07, 2010 2:26 PM
To: Carr,Margaret H
Subject: RE: alternate title for the School

Thanks, i also liked the first one.

David Bloomquist, PhD, PE
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From: Carr,Margaret H [mailto:mcarr@ufl.edu]
Sent: Thursday, October 07, 2010 2:19 PM
To: Bloomquist,David G
Subject: RE: alternate title for the School

I really like the first one!!! What??? You were just kidding?

Then I guess I'm okay with the second proposal. I'll discuss with Dean Silver, however, because he might feel differently.

I won't be able to get back to you until probably on Sunday.

Thanks for the laugh.

Peggy

From: Dave bloomquist [mailto:dave@ce.ufl.edu]
Sent: Thursday, October 07, 2010 2:16 PM
To: Carr, Margaret H
Subject: alternate title for the School

Hi Peggy. What do you think about the title below?

“School of Engineering for Design, Construction and Planning”?

Ok, ok, i guess not.....

Then how about

“Engineering School of Sustainable Infrastructure and the Environment”?

Thanks

Dave

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