Proposition: 05-06/07
Sponsors: Ron Pederson(ENGR), Lynn Kelly(ENGR)

Proposed Committee Assignment:
Actual Committee Assignment:

Title: Change the Name of The Department of Mechanical Engineering.

Proposal: To change the name of The Department of Mechanical Engineering to The Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering.

Rationale and Background

Background – In July 2003 an undergraduate degree in Aerospace Engineering was approved by the NMSU Board of Regents. The Mechanical Engineering Department is now offering Aerospace Engineering as a major to undergraduate students, with approximately 25 fall 2006 entering freshmen intending to major in AE. Because of the development of the academic programs in aerospace engineering, now is an appropriate time to change the name of the department from “Mechanical Engineering” to “Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering.”

Approximately four aerospace engineering courses will be offered in Spring 2007. In the 2007/2008 academic year approximately ten sections of undergraduate aerospace engineering courses are planned. The designation of Aerospace Engineering (AE) as an official course prefix has been requested. In addition, there is significant interest among current mechanical engineering students in the aerospace engineering minor that is currently being developed. There are also plans to develop the MS and PhD degrees.

The current situation, in which many students are now active in pursuing the BSAE degree or the minor in AE, justifies a name change for the ME Department. In addition, the requested name change will increase the visibility of the aerospace engineering program, enabling us to be more effective in recruiting students into the AE programs.

Requested Departmental Name Change - In order to keep the name of the department representative of actual programs and activities, the Department of Mechanical Engineering requests approval of this proposal to change its name to the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering.