Proposition 16-06/07
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Proposition: 16-0607

Date Submitted: 02/19/07
Effective Date: Fall 2007

Sponsors: Lynn Kelly (ENGR)

Proposed Committee Assignment:
Assigned Committee:

Title: New Major in the Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology offered by the Department of Engineering Technology and Surveying Engineering (ETSE), College of Engineering.

Proposal:

The Department of Engineering Technology and Surveying Engineering is requesting Faculty Senate approval to start a new major in Engineering Technology entitled “Information Engineering Technology”.

History/Rationale:

Existing Bachelor: Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology.
Existing Majors: Electronic and Computer Engineering Technology
               Civil Engineering Technology
               Mechanical Engineering Technology

New Major Name: Information Engineering Technology (IET)

In the fall of 2003, the ETSE department (then named Engineering Technology) began offering a new degree entitled Bachelor of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). This very successful program is a two year completion (upper division only), distance education degree. Students in this program are typically transferring their credits to NMSU from two year institutions within the state. The majority of the students are employed full time by companies based in New Mexico. The students are looking for advancement within their companies by completing a 4 year degree.

Companies hiring our current Engineering Technology (ET) students are interested in the course content of ICT, but prefer the strong skills the ET students have in math, science, engineering, and technology undergraduate courses. The ET programs are accredited by TAC/ABET ensuring a certain level of rigor in the program that industry expects. Whereas the ICT distance education program is not a Bachelor of Science degree nor is it accredited by TAC/ABET. Also, it is important to note that students graduating from the proposed IET program will not be competing for the same positions in industry that are obtainable for the ICT graduates. On campus students who are working on a Bachelor of
Science in Engineering Technology have expressed a strong interest in the topic areas of ICT, but not in distance education. These students prefer the “hands-on” coursework and rigor currently offered for BSET majors.

In the spring of 2006 an Industrial Advisory Committee was established for the purpose to help develop the new major. The Committee gave their approval of the major. During the summer and into the fall the curriculum was fine tuned. In October the Industrial Advisory Committee met again and gave their approval of the changes made.

The new IET program will share some similarities with the existing ET and ICT programs. Some lower division courses already exist in the ET programs that the IET program will use. There will be several new undergrad courses developed that will provide the undergrad in IET with a strong background in information technology.

Collaboration:
In the development of the new major the department looked closely at two year programs within New Mexico and regional areas for the purposes of transferability to the new major. As much as possible curriculum was added at the first and second year levels to allow for the possibility of transferring to NMSU.

Several upper division courses were added from the BCIS program, which offers curriculum in Information Systems a closely related field, as required courses. The business and management electives that exist in the BSET were maintained.

Accreditation:
The new major will seek TAC/ABET accreditation, the same as the other majors within the degree, at the appropriate time. The name for the major follows TAC/ABET’s recommendation. The curriculum closely follows the Accreditation Board’s plan as well.

Funding and Library Resources:
Department of Engineering Technology and Surveying Engineering is not seeking additional faculty or operating dollars to administer the major in Engineering Technology. The university library has investigated and found that they will not require additional funding to support this newly proposed undergraduate major.

Administration:
The program will be administered within Department of Engineering Technology and Surveying Engineering, College of Engineering.

Web site for the formal proposal:
http://et.nmsu.edu/~iet/