To: Kelly Haslam  
Assistant Dean for Academic Planning and Assessment, Graduate School

From: Susan C. Hagness  
Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Affairs, College of Engineering

Date: February 27, 2015

Re: Request to Discontinue Master of Engineering in Energy Systems Named Option

On December 10, 2014, the College of Engineering Academic Planning Council reviewed a proposal submitted by the Department of Mechanical Engineering to discontinue the Master of Engineering in Energy Systems Named Option. The proposal (attached) outlines the rationale, teach-out plan, and communications plan for the discontinuation of this program. A motion was made at the APC meeting to discontinue the named option, and the motion passed unanimously.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering Graduate Coordinator has confirmed that as of February 26, 2015 only three students remain in the M. Eng. Energy Systems named option. All three are expected to graduate at the end of this semester.

The College of Engineering requests approval of this proposal by the Graduate Faculty Executive Committee.

cc: Jaal Ghandhi, Chair, Department of Mechanical Engineering  
David Rothamer, Graduate Committee Chair, Department of Mechanical Engineering  
Theresa Pillar-Groesbeck, Graduate Coordinator, Department of Mechanical Engineering  
Jake Blanchard, Executive Associate Dean, College of Engineering  
Jocelyn Milner, Associate Provost and Director, Academic Planning and Institutional Research  
Daniel Kleinman, Associate Dean, Graduate School  
Jennifer Martin, Academic Planning Specialist, Graduate School
To: Dean of the College of Engineering, Engineering APC

From: Jaal Ghandhi, Chair, Department of Mechanical Engineering

Re: Proposed Discontinuation of Master of Engineering in Energy Systems Named Option

October 15, 2014

The Master of Engineering in Energy Systems degree is a program designed to serve students who want to obtain a graduate degree focused on thermal-fluid systems in a short amount of time (two semesters). This degree has primarily served self-funded students who are either returning to school from the work force or have just finished their undergraduate degree. In either case, the typical student in the M.Eng. degree is motivated to pursue this degree by the fact that it does not include research and could be completed more quickly than the comparable M.S. degree; the M.Eng. degree requires 24 credits whereas the M.S. degree requires 30.

Due to the change in required minimum credits for a M. Eng. degree to 30 credits by the graduate school, Mechanical Engineering requests that the M. Eng. in Energy Systems named option be discontinued.

- Rationale: The recent change to 30 credits for all Master degrees has made the course requirements for the M.Eng. degree equivalent to the M.S. degree and therefore eliminated the need for the degree. Rather than continue to offer a degree that has no advantage to the more widely recognized M.S. degree, we feel that the M.Eng. in Energy Systems named option should be discontinued.

- Notification of parties affected/teach-out plan: Currently there is at least one student who enrolled in this degree prior to the credit change. The courses required for the degree continue to be taught and therefore he can finish the degree without any issue.

- Timeline and communication plan: Our department would like this change to be effective immediately upon approval. As soon as we learn of approval by the University Academic Planning Council our online and print materials will immediately communicate the change. We will alert all office and marketing entities that may have materials available for public perusal. ME faculty have already been alerted to the change. Once the discontinuation is approved fully, ME will inform the College of Engineering.

- Suspension/Discontinuation of Related Programs: This discontinuation request is for the M. Eng. in Energy Systems named option only.

- Financial Impact: This discontinuation will have no negative financial impact on the Department of Mechanical Engineering.

Please feel free to contact me or Prof. David Rothamer, Graduate Committee Chair, with any questions.