

Proposition: 11-15/16

Title: Proposal for a Master of Engineering graduate degree to be offered by departments of the college of engineering.

Date Submitted: December 10<sup>th</sup> 2015

Sponsor(s): Rolfe Sassenfeld, Faculty, College of Engineering

Steve Stochaj, Dean, College of Engineering

Ed Pines, Department Head, College of Engineering

Proposed Committee: Scholastic Affairs

Assigned Committee:

Prior Approvals: ADAC (11/9/2015)

Graduate Council (10/30/2014)

Engineering College Curriculum Committee (9/2/14)

Proposal: The creation of a Master of Engineering (M.Eng.) degree is proposed for the purpose of developing a parallel degree path to the Master of Science which accommodates the career goals of working professionals in a variety of engineering and technical occupations.

Rationale: Such degrees have an advanced professional and managerial preparation focus rather than the traditional research focus of the Master of Science programs. As a result, we propose this degree as a means of recognizing the unique orientation of such professional practice students. Research-oriented students may continue to seek the Master of Science. Students whose career goals are professional practice will seek the M.Eng. degree. We believe this degree will especially be useful to those who are working throughout New Mexico. Through the various distance education technologies available to faculty, we will be able to offer this coursework-only degree across the state and potentially worldwide. Thus, practicing engineers and technical professionals will be able to earn a high-quality master's degree that we currently offer regardless of geographic location. Engineering is a continually evolving discipline. Thus, we anticipate that many non-traditional students will seek to earn this degree as a result of their need for continuing professional education. We also emphasize that we will be positioned to serve many NMSU Engineering alumni whose career path takes them away from the Las Cruces area.

Additional rationale for creation of this degree is provided by the profession. A market for graduate education is created through advances in the profession. For some time, there have been discussions regarding the need for professional engineers to seek advanced education. The National Society of Professional Engineers recommends 30 credits past the bachelor's degree requirement for professional license registration. Thus, students who graduate with bachelor's

degrees in engineering and have earned Engineer-In-Training status will need to complete this requirement. This recommendation (originally proposed by the American Society of Civil Engineers) of the master's degree or 30 graduate credits will most likely be the minimum education requirement for the professional license. Thus, we position the College of Engineering to address this need and provide students with advanced education without the need to leave their employment or relocate.

Supplementary Material: Full proposal is attached.