

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

EP.03.07

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor
for Academic Affairs

Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820



December 6, 2002

Peter L. Mortensen, Chair
Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Office of the Senate
228 English Building, MC-461

Dear Professor Mortensen:

Enclosed are copies of a proposal from the College of Engineering to rename the Department of Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering to the Department of Aerospace Engineering.

This proposal has been approved by The College of Engineering Executive Committee; it now requires Senate review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Keith A. Marshall".

Keith A. Marshall
Assistant Provost

KAM/ml

c: M. B. Bragg
D. Daniel
C. Livingstone

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

EP.03.07

College of Engineering
Office of the Dean
306 Engineering Hall, MC-266
1308 West Green Street
Urbana, IL 61801



November 13, 2002

Mr. Keith Marshall
Assistant Provost
207 Swanlund Administration Building
MC - 304

RECEIVED
NOV 18 2002
OFFICE of the PROVOST

Dear Keith:

I am forwarding a request sent to me by Professor Michael Bragg, Head of the Department of Aeronautical & Astronautical Engineering, suggesting that the name of the department be changed to Aerospace Engineering. The College of Engineering Executive Committee met on November 12 and has approved this name change. I am forwarding this request to you because it will involve a change in the name of the degree, as well as the name of the department. The new name better describes the degree earned in the department. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

David E. Daniel
Dean

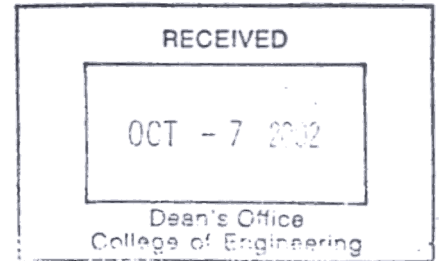
DED:ss

cc: M. B. Bragg

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Department of Aeronautical and
Astronautical Engineering

306 Talbot Laboratory, MC-236
104 South Wright Street
Urbana, IL 61801-2935 USA



TO: David E. Daniel, Dean
College of Engineering

FROM: Michael B. Bragg, Head *MB*

DATE: October 4, 2002

Department Name Change

The Department of Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering seeks to change the name of our department to "Department of Aerospace Engineering." The attached document explains our request. Please let me know if other input or documentation is needed from the department. Thank you for your help in this matter.

m

enclosure

cc: CoE Executive Committee Representatives: Eric Loth, Scott White
Faculty Senate Representatives: Harry Hilton, John Prussing
Associate Head: Rod Burton

Proposal to Change the Name of the
Department of Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering to:
“Department of Aerospace Engineering”

Michael B. Bragg
Professor and Head
Department of Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering
306 Talbot Laboratory
email: mbragg@uiuc.edu
phone: 244-5551

Summary:

The Department of Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering requests to change its name to the Department of Aerospace Engineering. This is the result of over a year of discussion with our many constituents, careful consideration within the department, and the vote of the department faculty. The reasons for the proposed change are: 1) The department only gives one degree and aerospace better reflects this degree than either aeronautical or astronautical, 2) The use of the older description “aeronautical and astronautical engineering” is no longer widely recognized in the US in either academe or industry, and 3) The current name is confusing to many in the public which causes confusion in recruiting, placement, and other department functions. The use of the current name places us at a disadvantage when interacting with industry, recruiting students, etc. Simplifying and modernizing our name to Aerospace Engineering would improve the image of the department and aid us in the further development of the department. This name change would have no staff implications and insignificant budgetary implications.

Justification:

History: Shortly after the launch of Sputnik in 1958 Aeronautical Engineering departments in the US began to change to include more space content. Many departments then added Astronautical Engineering to their names. This happened at Illinois in 1962. In recent years the aircraft and spacecraft industry has become known as the aerospace industry. After an initial reluctance that the “new” term aerospace would be to industry specific, academe has followed this trend with many departments adopting the word Aerospace in their name. Examining the names of the top 17 peer “aerospace engineering” departments we find that 12 use the term Aerospace in their name. Five institutions (Georgia Tech, Michigan, Pennsylvania State, Maryland, Texas A&M) use Aerospace Engineering and seven (Princeton, Cornell, UCLA, Ohio State, UT Austin, Virginia Tech, Colorado) use Aerospace combined with another area such as Mechanical Engineering. Four departments use the name Aeronautics and Astronautics, including MIT, Stanford, Purdue, and the University of Washington. Cal Tech uses Aeronautics and Mechanical and, of course, Illinois is Aeronautical and Astronautical. The department has considered changing its name for the past several years and from a national perspective it is certainly past due.

Reasons: 1) Our primary reason for requesting a name change is that Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering no longer reflects what we do. The Department of Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering includes an integrated curriculum where undergraduate students receive a world-class education in the fundamentals of science and engineering dealing with space flight and flight in the atmosphere. We do not offer separate degrees in Aeronautical Engineering and Astronautical Engineering such as in Civil and Environmental Engineering or Mechanical and Industrial Engineering. For this reason, including both Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering in our name is confusing to students, employers, and the public. The name Aerospace Engineering is widely accepted in the field and accurately reflects the single degree and focus of the department. 2) Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering is no longer a widely accepted academic name for departments. Illinois is the only "aerospace engineering" department still using the word Astronautical in its name. Aerospace is widely accepted to include both air and space. The name Aeronautics and Astronautics has been adopted by four top schools, but these schools do not include the word engineering in their names. We feel that our program is firmly grounded in engineering science and practice and that it would be inappropriate not to include the word engineering in the department name. Thus, Aerospace Engineering is the logical choice. 3) The name Aeronautical and Astronautical is confusing to many people. Search engines and human resource departments use aerospace to find academic departments and as such Illinois is not well placed. The term Astronautical has fallen out of favor even in the aerospace community and many, especially in the public, neither understand its meaning nor can even pronounce it. The change to the well understood and almost universally used Aerospace Engineering would improve our ability to interact with the outside world.

Constituents: We have consulted with and included in the discussions our alumni, undergraduate students, graduate students, and industry representatives during this process. Our Alumni Advisory Board participated in a discussion of the department name at its fall 2001 meeting. A straw poll at this meeting showed a majority of the alumni supported a name change to Aerospace Engineering. The undergraduate students were informed of the potential name change and polled to gather their opinions. The AAE Undergraduate Advisory Committee conducted this process. The students responded in an email survey over 2 to 1 to change the name to Aerospace Engineering. The graduate students responded to a similar email poll 8 to 1 to change the department name. Discussion with alumni on this topic continued after the Fall Alumni Advisory Board Meeting. Several articles were placed in the AAE alumni newsletter concerning the possible changes, and alumni were invited to email the department head and voice their opinion. The alumni who responded were in favor 2 to 1 to change the department name.

Vote: All this information, including copies of all the comments that accompanied the email responses, was collected and supplied to the AAE faculty prior to the meetings concerning the department name change. After seriously reviewing and considering the input of our alumni and students, and studying the impact and implications of a new name, the faculty voted on May 15, 2002 at a special faculty meeting to amend the department By Laws to change the name of the department to the Department of Aerospace Engineering. The amendment passed 15 in favor and 2 against. The change in the By Laws is, of course, contingent on the approval of the University.

College: The proposal to change the name of the department to the Department of Aerospace Engineering was presented at a meeting of the College of Engineering department heads and the Dean during the spring of 2002. The group was supportive and no objections were raised.

Budgetary and Staff Implications:

There will be no staff changes required to change the name of the department to Aerospace Engineering. Budgetary implications will be small with only the one-time expense involving changes in signage, stationary, website, etc.