

PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

Title: Discontinuance of Manufacturing Engineering Minor

Sponsor: James W. Phillips, Associate Head for Undergraduate Programs, Department of Mechanical Science and Engineering, 333-4388

Brief Description: Discontinuance of the Manufacturing Engineering Minor; discontinuance of all courses in the MFGE rubric, created for the Minor.

Justification: A discontinuance of the Manufacturing Engineering Minor is proposed due to a combination of difficulty in staffing MFGE courses associated with the Minor and an insufficient student demand.

In the early 1990s, the College instituted the Minor in Manufacturing Engineering in response to a need for training students in this area. Faculty in the former Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering (MIE), including Richard E. DeVor, Placid M. Ferreira, and Shiv G. Kapoor, introduced new courses with a new MFGE rubric and enlisted the help of faculty both inside and outside the department to staff them. Key non-MIE professors were Wayne J. Davis, F. Bullo, and R. S. Sreenivas in the former Department of General Engineering, and Geneva G. Belford in Computer Science. The College has provided a small amount of money annually to help pay stipends for instructors in the MFGE courses.

With time, however, attrition and changes in staffing have made the offering of the MFGE courses difficult: Professors DeVor, Davis, and Belford retired; Professor Bullo resigned his appointment; a junior faculty member in the manufacturing area left the university; Professor Ferreira became the director of a new research center and was granted a teaching release one semester each year; Professor Kapoor was granted a sabbatical for the 2007–2008 academic year; and Professor Sreenivas is too busy with other courses in the wake of the departures of Professor Bullo and another senior Industrial and Enterprise Systems Engineering (IESE) faculty member. Simply put, critical mass has been lost and no immediate hiring in the manufacturing area is foreseen to improve the situation.

Furthermore, over the past decade, student interest in the minor has waned; of the 5,000 or so undergraduates currently enrolled in the College, official records indicate only one student is currently pursuing the Minor in Manufacturing Engineering. Data extracted from transcript records (with names redacted) from the Office of Admissions and Records show that only 16 students were awarded the Minor in Manufacturing Engineering during the period 1999–2008, the latest period for which data are available:

| <i>Term</i> | <i>Degree</i> | <i>Degree Date</i> | <i>Major Name</i> | <i>Minor Name</i> |
|-------------|---------------|--------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 119988 | BS | 1/15/1999 | General Engineering | Manufacturing Engineering |
| 119991 | BS | 5/16/1999 | General Engineering | Manufacturing Engineering |
| 119991 | BS | 5/16/1999 | Mechanical Engineering | Manufacturing Engineering |
| 119991 | BS | 5/16/1999 | Mechanical Engineering | Manufacturing Engineering |
| 119991 | BS | 5/16/1999 | Electrical Engineering | Manufacturing Engineering |
| 120001 | BS | 5/14/2000 | Mechanical Engineering | Manufacturing Engineering |
| 120001 | BS | 5/14/2000 | Agricultural Engineering | Manufacturing Engineering |
| 120008 | BS | 1/15/2001 | Materials Science & Engr | Manufacturing Engineering |
| 120008 | BS | 1/15/2001 | Mechanical Engineering | Manufacturing Engineering |
| 120011 | BS | 5/13/2001 | Mechanical Engineering | Manufacturing Engineering |
| 120018 | BS | 12/17/2001 | Materials Science & Engr | Manufacturing Engineering |
| 120041 | BS | 5/16/2004 | General Engineering | Manufacturing Engineering |
| 120061 | BS | 5/14/2006 | Mechanical Engineering | Manufacturing Engineering |
| 120061 | BS | 5/14/2006 | Mechanical Engineering | Manufacturing Engineering |
| 120071 | BS | 5/13/2007 | Materials Science & Engr | Manufacturing Engineering |
| 120071 | BS | 5/13/2007 | Industrial Engineering | Manufacturing Engineering |

It will be seen that, since 2001, only five students have completed the requirements for the minor.

Budgetary and Staffing Implications: The impact on staffing and budget is considered insignificant since few staff members are currently engaged in teaching the MFGE courses, and these instructors would become available to help meet other teaching obligations of the MechSE Department. The small annual College contribution to the program would revert to the College for other purposes.

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Implications for Currently Enrolled Students: The student currently enrolled in the Minor will be allowed to complete the minor with alternative course work if necessary. Election of the Minor by new students has been suspended pending the consideration of this proposal.

Clearances:

James W. Phillips

Sponsor

September 22, 2008

Date

J. Behrtoğlu

Department of Mechanical Science and Engrg

September 22, 2008

Date

[Signature]
College of Engineering

W/3/08
Date

Office of the Provost

Date

Statement for the Programs of Study Catalog: The discontinuance will be effected by removing the Manufacturing Minor from the (i) Table of Contents and (ii) descriptive text section, both found in the College of Engineering Program Information section of the *Programs of Study* (currently http://courses.uiuc.edu/cis/programs/urbana/2008/fall/undergrad/engin/about_engin.html). The College of Engineering's Office of Undergraduate Programs will be responsible for these edits once approval of the discontinuance has been obtained.

Effective Date: Fall 2009