

MEMORANDUM

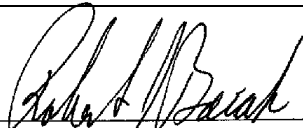
To: Board of Regents
From: Board Office
Subject: Discontinue the Undergraduate Program in Engineering Applications, ISU
Date: January 6, 2003

Recommended Action:

Approve Iowa State University's request to discontinue the Undergraduate Program in Engineering Applications.

Executive Summary:

Discontinue Program	The University is requesting discontinuance of the undergraduate program in Engineering Applications offered by the College of Engineering.
Lack of Interest in Program	This program discontinuation proposal is reported to be a result of the significant and continuing lack of interest in the program on the part of students, potential employers of graduates, and the faculty of the college.
Budget Reduction	Recent budget reductions have also been a secondary consideration in the proposal, as the College of Engineering works to identify and focus on its highest priorities, consistent with the needs and advice of its multiple internal and external constituencies. The proposal is partially the result of a larger initiative to examine carefully College of Engineering programs to enhance efficiency and resource utilization.
Current Students Protected	The current administrative committee structure will be maintained until the last of the currently enrolled students graduate (expected to be in 2004 or 2005).
Cost Savings	The elimination of this program will allow an estimated \$50,000 of faculty and staff effort to be reallocated to higher priorities.
Board of Regents Questions	Attached to this memorandum are the University's responses to the Board of Regents questions concerning discontinued programs.



Robert J. Barak

Approved: 

Gregory S. Nichols

Information Required by the Board of Regents:

- a. Status and plans of students who are currently enrolled in the program.** Seven of the current students are classified as seniors and one is classified as a junior. Because of the curriculum requirements exclusive reliance on courses offered for students in other curricula, there will be no problem accommodating graduation requirements for the current students during a phase out period that allows all current students to graduate. As far as we have been able to determine, the currently enrolled students plan to complete the program, and all are expected to do so by 2005 at the latest.
- b. Projected phase-out information.** The current administrative committee structure will be maintained until the last of the currently enrolled students graduates (expected to be in 2004 or 2005). As indicated above, no special courses are offered for this program, and thus associated costs are expected to be minimal.
- c. Reallocation expected as a result of the proposed elimination.** The elimination of this program will allow an estimated \$50,000 in faculty and staff effort to be reallocated to other higher priority activities.
- d. Impact of discontinuance on other programs and the institution.** The expected impact on other programs and the institution as a whole is expected to be minimal. This program allowed a very small number of students a slightly more flexible approach to an engineering degree. Both on- and off-campus constituencies now view that opportunity as being unimportant because of other alternatives available within the College of Engineering for such students. It is estimated that at least 6 of the 8 currently enrolled students would have chosen to attend ISU in one of the other current engineering programs if the engineering applications program had not been offered at the time they entered the university. Even if the proposed elimination caused 8 fewer students to enroll in the College of Engineering, the impact would be negligible in an undergraduate population that is currently 4,963 students.
- e. Impact on minorities and women.** Current enrollment in this program includes two female students and two students from ethnic minority groups. Although these numbers represent a significant fraction of the program's total enrollment, they do not represent a significant portion of the 791 women or 422 ethnic minority students enrolled in the College of Engineering. Furthermore, it is expected that potential students who might have previously selected this program will select alternative engineering programs if this proposal is approved. There has been no indication from current students that they chose to come to the College of Engineering primarily because of the availability of this program.

- f. Potential faculty and staff reassignments.** There are no faculty or staff with full-time responsibilities associated with this program. All current faculty and staff who are involved with the program will reallocate their efforts to other priority responsibilities of their departments and the college.
- g. Reallocation of facilities and equipment.** There are no facilities or pieces of equipment that are devoted entirely to this program, and because of the extremely low enrollment, the impact of the proposed discontinuance on facilities and equipment will be negligible.