

ASACR 6

Office of the President
June 10, 2014

Members, Board of Trustees:

ACADEMIC DEGREE TRANSFER RECOMMENDATION:
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the transfer of the Master of Science in Manufacturing Systems Engineering from the College of Engineering to the Department of Mechanical Engineering, within the College of Engineering, effective in the Fall 2014 Semester.

Background: The interdisciplinary Master of Science in Manufacturing Systems Engineering (MS-MSE) program provides graduate-level education in the field of manufacturing which is a critical discipline for the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

The change in reporting structure from the College to the Department of Mechanical Engineering is aligned with the objectives of the unit, the College and, as such, strengthens the University priorities. The Department of Mechanical Engineering has had a focus area of manufacturing at the graduate level for more than 20 years. Moving the MS-MSE degree strengthens the commitment to manufacturing and supports the many associated faculty through their research programs. The College traditionally housed the program because the Center for Manufacturing Systems, which is no longer in existence, had been administering it on the College's behalf. Since the closure of the Center, the enrollment numbers have dwindled in recent years. Strengthening manufacturing has been selected as a focus area for the College; and housing it in a department that has the area expertise will facilitate enrollment growth.

The University of Kentucky has been a leading university in manufacturing for more than 25 years. The growth and development of this program, through moving to the Department of Mechanical Engineering, will help maintain that reputation, especially in the areas of advanced manufacturing including lean manufacturing and sustainable manufacturing. Plans for the program include an increase in on-line offerings as well as the traditional classroom delivery.

The transfer has been reviewed and recommended by the Senate Committee on Academic Organization and Structure and the Senate Council; and endorsed by the University Senate. The Provost of the University supports this recommendation.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____