

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST

SUBJECT: New Undergraduate degree program in the College of Engineering
ACTION REQUESTED: Approval to offer a new Bachelor of Science of Engineering degree in Environmental Engineering, College of Engineering
EFFECTIVE DATE: March 15, 2012

The College of Engineering (COE) proposes a new B.S.E. degree in environmental engineering (“B.S.E. in Environmental Engineering”). The proposed program addresses recent transformations in this changing and increasingly critical field of study, and better meets the needs and interests of our undergraduates and their future employers. COE has long offered a top ranked environmental engineering graduate program and, for undergraduates, has offered environmental engineering as a focus area within its civil engineering undergraduate program. In the past, undergraduates interested in environmental engineering were advised to earn a degree in civil engineering, given the structure of the job market for environmental engineers. However, the field has matured considerably and the employment options and employer criteria are more diverse today. The proposed degree will provide students interested in environmental engineering the opportunity to focus their coursework more deeply in the necessary natural sciences, such as chemistry and biology.

The proposed program builds on the resources and strengths in existing engineering programs, and leverages the interdisciplinary vitality of our campus. The University of Michigan is uniquely qualified to offer courses through complimentary and top-rated programs in public health, earth and environmental science, atmospheric science, sustainability and entrepreneurship. These partnerships allow U-M to offer a comprehensive and interdisciplinary environmental engineering degree program to students. The proposed program will be offered by the civil and environmental engineering department, which already offers M.S.E. and Ph.D. degrees in this field.

The proposed program and its related courses have been carefully reviewed and were approved by the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering in October 2011, the COE curriculum committee in November 2011, and the COE faculty in December 2011. We request that the Regents approve the new undergraduate degree program, “B.S.E. in Environmental Engineering.” Pending approval, students would be permitted to declare this major in the fall of 2012. The program will be implemented upon approval from the Presidents Council of State Universities of Michigan, pending the Board of Regents approval.

RECOMMENDED BY:



David C. Munson, Jr.
Robert J. Vlastic Dean of Engineering
College of Engineering



Philip J. Hanlon
Provost and Executive Vice
President for Academic Affairs