

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
REGENTS COMMUNICATION

Approved by the Regents  
May 15, 2008

SUBJECT: Reorganization of the Department of Electrical Engineering  
and Computer Science in the College of Engineering

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval of Reorganization of the Department of Electrical  
Engineering and Computer Science into Two Divisions for  
the Purpose of Appointing Faculty [and Staff]

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2008

The College of Engineering requests approval to formalize the long-standing divisional structure of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science by creating distinct divisional identification numbers within the department for faculty and staff appointments, budgets, and other administrative matters.

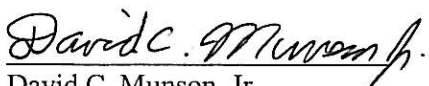
In the new structure, faculty will be appointed as faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science in either the Computer Science and Engineering Division or the Electrical and Computer Engineering Division. Faculty may choose to have a joint appointment. Each division will be led by a division chair. Some administrative matters will continue to be managed centrally through the existing departmental structure; the division chairs will take rotating responsibility for central departmental issues, with all significant decisions made in joint consultation.

The previous organization of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science was created nearly 25 years ago by the merger of the Departments of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Computer, Information, and Control Engineering in the College of Engineering, and computer science components from the Department of Computer and Communications Sciences in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. Computer science, as an emerging field, was incorporated into college and departmental structures in a variety of models across the country. The structure adopted at the University of Michigan provided a strong support system for computer science during its formative years. The mature field of computer science stands on its own in relation to many fields and is no longer so closely tied to electrical engineering. At the same time, research and educational programs in computer engineering provide a strong link within the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.


After extensive discussions with faculty in the Department and careful analysis of the implications of various organizational structures, the Dean and Executive Committee of the College of Engineering agreed that a strong divisional structure within the existing department will allow each academic discipline to achieve high recognition and visibility, while maintaining successful joint programs.

Recommended by:

Recommendation endorsed by:



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



Teresa A. Sullivan  
Provost and Executive Vice President for  
Academic Affairs

May 2008