

November 20, 2008

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION**

ACTION REQUEST

SUBJECT: A new degree program for the College of Engineering and Computer Science, University of Michigan-Dearborn

ACTION REQUESTED: Approval of a new degree program, "Doctor of Philosophy in Automotive Systems Engineering," to be offered by the College of Engineering and Computer Science, University of Michigan-Dearborn

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 1, 2009

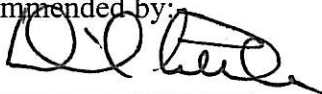
The College of Engineering and Computer Science (CECS) at the University of Michigan-Dearborn proposes to establish a graduate program leading to a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Automotive Systems Engineering. This program will provide advanced knowledge and research experience to engineers and scientists who are already employed or will be employed in the automotive and related industries. The Ph.D. program will be unique in the state of Michigan, and it not only will benefit the students in advancing their careers in the automotive field, but also will benefit Michigan industry by providing it with the workforce needed for maintaining a competitive advantage and a strong technological base.

Rapid changes in technology and the increasing technological sophistication needed to maintain global competitiveness are causing the automotive industry in Michigan to encourage its workforce to advance its knowledge, skills, and expertise through graduate-level education and training. For many engineers, this means education beyond the master's degree and, more specifically, in the niche or specialized areas of emerging technology that can best be offered through doctoral programs. This will allow the engineers to acquire advanced knowledge, enabling them to become technical leaders and technology developers in their own companies. The automotive industry currently employs a large number of Ph.D.s, but the need for more Ph.D.s will grow as the industry develops advanced technologies for safer, lighter weight, and more fuel-efficient vehicles.

The dean, executive committee, and governing faculty of the College of Engineering and Computer Science have approved the Doctor of Philosophy in Automotive Systems Engineering. The Council of Deans, Graduate Board and provost and vice-chancellor of academic affairs at the University of Michigan-Dearborn have also extended their approval. The Presidents Council, State Universities of Michigan approved it on October 24, 2008.

I am pleased to present this proposal for your approval.

Recommended by:



Daniel Little, Chancellor
University of Michigan-Dearborn

November 2008