

School of Technology Transitions

by Adrienne Minerick

Following a decision in December 2018 to move academic programs currently housed in the School of Technology to other units on campus in order to enhance synergies and support future growth and innovation, the School has been actively considering a variety of options.

Faculty and program chairs have conducted dedicated listening sessions for students and separate program-specific meetings with select faculty, program chairs, department chairs and deans. Conversations with department chairs, faculty and deans of other units have also been held.

Based on these sessions, the deans have provided the provost with their recommendations regarding the future homes of the programs currently housed within the School of Technology. The provost plans to meet during March with members of the School, as well as representatives of the Colleges of Engineering and Sciences and Arts, the School of Business and Economics, and the University Senate to discuss the recommendations that she plans to bring to the University Board of Trustees.

In order for the transition to have the minimum impact on students, the School will remain fully functional for advising students and conducting classes through the end of summer semester 2019, although the realignments are slated for enactment at the start of the upcoming fiscal year (July 1, 2019).

Communications with alumni have been coordinated between the dean of the School of Technology and the Advancement office. Via coordination with Industry Relations and Advancement, Leidos recently donated funds to support revamping the Electric Motors Lab in Electrical Engineering Technology (which benefits the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering as well). Donald Engineering has committed to building and regularly updating hydraulic training stations for students taking the fluid-power courses proposed as part of the MS in Mechatronics. These investments in the future of Michigan Tech's students will help ensure that the programs currently housed within the School become more attractive to students in the future.

Throughout this period of transition, School of Technology faculty and staff are committed to continually improving the quality of education for all students.