THE UNIVERSITY SENATE OF MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
PROPOSAL 17-08
"PROGRAM NAME CHANGE - ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY"
School of Technology
(Voting Units: Academic)

This proposal recommends a name change of the current Electrical Engineering Technology program (EET) to Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology program (ECET).

I. General Description

ABET describes electrical engineering technology as a branch of engineering education that emphasizes the practical, hands-on laboratory work that is closely coordinated with theoretical classroom discussion. The Bachelor of Science in Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology prepares graduates to be electrical or computer engineering technologists with career options in micro-controller applications, robotics, industrial automation, instrumentation, control, power engineering, and the development and implementation of computer systems.

The addition of computer engineering technology elective courses enables the students to either define an emphasis area or simply broaden their expertise in computer related studies.

II. Rationale

The Electrical Engineering Technology program (EET) requests to change its name to the Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology (ECET) program to more accurately reflect the curriculum and education that the program has established.
The EET program has added a Computer Engineering Technology focus area to enhance and strengthen the current curriculum. The main motivation for developing the new focus area in computer engineering technology was to respond to the market needs of skilled computer engineering technologists with skills in microcontrollers and their applications in industrial automation, robotics, control, instrumentation, and automated testing. The addition of the new focus was a result of a national trends and consultation with the program industry advisory board. As a result, the School of Technology is stepping up to this challenge by introducing the new focus area to give the students the opportunity to learn and experience the design and implementation of computer-based applications.

The new ECET program will attract more students by providing them with areas of specialization that prepare them for careers in a wider scope industry. The new specialization areas will represent and build a stronger program within the School of Technology that prepares graduates for high demand, high skill, and high pay positions.

The career opportunities awaiting computer engineering technologists are excellent. According to the United States Department of Labor, the job outlook is on the rise and among the fastest growing occupations in addition to the largest numerical job growth. The experts in the US Bureau of Labor believe that a graduate with a bachelor's degree and relevant work experience will have higher chance in finding a job in this field.

The addition of the Computer Engineering Technology focus area fills a recognized void in the curriculum and is in line with the School of Technology and University strategic plan. As an engineering technology program, a significant hands-on lab experience and applied research is our uniqueness. Faculty members and undergraduate students will engaged in applied research projects and these applied research opportunities will provide more in-depth training for ECET undergraduate students in the School of Technology.

III. Planned Implementation Date

Fall 2008.
Introduced to Senate: 27 February 2008
Withdrawn: 05 March 2008