



March 23, 2017

**Department's Response to Dean's Comments and Recommendations of the PPR Report
(Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering Degree Program)**

Dean's review and recommendation corresponding to the Mechanical Engineering PPR Report and the External Review Team Report has been reviewed. Here are the activities enacted and planned for the Mechanical Engineering Department on the following three areas suggested by the Review Team for further reflection and deliberation:

Department Strategic Plan

Although the ME Department has experienced multiple leadership changes in the past few years, it is anticipated that the ME Department will have a more stable leadership moving forward as indicated by Interim Dean Barua. While the majority of the faculty is still on tenure-track, they have been exceptionally good in their contributions to the department, and they are well poised to provide mentorship to our new faculty hires. As soon as the ECS College Strategic Plan is established and approved, the ME Department will develop strategic plans at the departmental level and align them with the College and University strategic plans. The ME Department will set targets to improve graduation rate, increase student success, and narrow the achievement gap. We will also strive to develop plans to recruit and retain diverse faculty to provide high-quality learning experience for our students. The ME Department will consider a venue such as a Department Retreat in the future as suggested by the Review Team to discuss the vision and goals for the department while strengthening cohesiveness and community among the faculty members within the department.

Enrollment

Despite the unprecedented growth in enrollment of mechanical engineering students over the past few years, the ME Department has successfully provided enough course offerings with manageable class size to allow students graduating in a timely manner. More classes are now scheduled on Fridays and Saturdays. Our faculty is working on developing online class for bottleneck class through the Course Redesign with Technology (CRT) award. Summer classes are also available to improve the graduation rate of our students. The ME Department is currently in the faculty search process to fill three tenure-track positions this academic year, and we are also working closely with the College to establish long-term hiring plan for the department based on the Full-Time Equivalent Student (FTES) and Student Faculty Ratio (SFR). More technical electives and graduate classes have been proposed by our current faculty to prepare our students in the career of their choice. Some examples include EGME 571 Alternative Energy Technology and Systems, EGME 563 Human Kinematics in Advanced Mechanical Design, EGME 561 Advanced Manufacturing, and EGME 531 Random Vibration of Mechanical Systems. New faculty



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members joining the ME Department are encouraged and expected to develop additional classes in their areas of specialty such as in the fields of bioengineering and materials. The ME Department will also work closely with the College and University on Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) to obtain comprehensive information on enrollment for scheduling and faculty hiring while meeting the enrollment targets.

Research

Our faculty members are engaging more graduate students on Thesis (EGME 598) and Project (EGME 597) as the culminating experiences, and our graduate students have excelled in their research work under the mentorship of our faculty. For example, mechanical engineering graduate students have placed in the top 10 finalists in CSUF Student Research Competition for the past three years (2015 through 2017). To promote and accommodate more synergistic research activities, the ME Department will reassess and optimize the utilization of existing physical space for faculty and student research, senior design projects and laboratory instructions. Additional faculty resources for research such as incentive grants, travel and professional development funds are also now available through the ECS Dean's Office.

Through these activities enacted and planned by the Mechanical Engineering Department, the recommendations of Interim Dean Barua are thus incorporated to address the issues raised by the Review Team for the Program Performance Review of our Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering degree program.

Regards,

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