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To: Chean Chin Ngo, Chair
Department of Mechanical Engineering

From: Susamma Barua, Dean
College of Engineering and Computer Science

Subject: Dean's Comments and Recommendations - Program Performance Review of the MS Degree Program in Mechanical Engineering

The Program Performance Review (PPR) Self-Study Report for the graduate degree program in Mechanical Engineering (ME), the Review Team Report, and the Response from the ME Department have been reviewed at the Dean's level.

We are encouraged by the positive comments as well as the strong attributes identified by the PPR Review Team for multiple aspects of the program, including student support and advising, faculty, and resources and facilities.

The Review Team also pointed out the challenges they observed in several areas of the program and provided recommendations for addressing these challenges. The ME Department has reviewed the Review Team's report and provided its response along with steps the Department plans to implement in addressing the challenges in the context of the recommendations that the Review Team has provided.

We have every confidence that the ME Department will do its best to implement the steps necessary for addressing the items that the Review Team pointed out. In addition, in recognizing the need for direct and additional support for Engineering and Computer science (ECS) graduate programs, graduate curricula, graduate student success, graduate outreach, recruitment and retention, and faculty engagement in research, the College has been approved for a second Associate Dean with the position title, "Associate Dean for Graduate Programs, Faculty Research and Innovation, College of ECS". The College Dean, Associate Dean for Graduate Programs, Faculty Research and Innovation, ME Department Chair and the ME faculty will work collaboratively and strategically to implement the continuous improvement plans for the ME graduate degree program.