



Date: April 18, 2022

To: Jidong Huang, Chair  
Department of Electrical Engineering

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

Subject: Dean's Comments and Recommendations - Program Performance Review of  
Electrical Engineering MS

The Program Performance Review (PPR) Self-Study Report for the Electrical Engineering (EE) MS, the Review Team Report, and the Response from the EE Department have been reviewed at the Dean's level.

While there are no immediate fixes to the many challenges that the PPR Review Team has identified, the proposed merger of the Electrical Engineering Department and the Computer Engineering (CpE) program to form one single Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) will create multiple opportunities not currently possible in addressing these challenges.

- The merger will facilitate cooperation and collaboration among members of the EE Department and the CpE Program with respect to both curriculum development/revision and research, increase educational and research opportunities for students, and enhance regional and national visibility.
- Students will be able to participate in a wider range of faculty-directed research projects within the merged structure.
- Cross-disciplinary collaboration will enhance the production of cutting edge graduate research that sits at the forefront of the field. The electrical engineering discipline is so broad that receiving an opportunity to teach, research, and expand one's professional development without the barriers imposed by the existing department boundaries will be a tremendous opportunity for intellectual growth, development, and contribution to the academy.
- Academic synergy between the two disciplines will allow faculty in the merged department to collaborate in course teaching and introduce new courses of interest to students in both fields.
- Because of the disciplinary similarity between EE and CpE, faculty from one program can effectively teach various courses for the other. The added robustness in faculty teaching assignments can provide efficient schedule management by the department. The combined schedule handling will also allow efficient instructional classroom usage.



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- The merged structure will enjoy higher visibility and recognition with the local industry and within the community because the merged Department will now align with the national trend.

It is expected that there will be significant improvement in all the areas identified by the PPR Review Team under the proposed merger. We are also very cognizant of the need to build the human and infrastructure capacity to address challenges we are faced with and to take advantage of the opportunities. The College Dean, leadership of the merged department, and the ECS Academic Resource Manager will work collaboratively and strategically to create an optimal structure and operational efficiency to support the curricular and space needs of the Department and its programs.