

Colleagues,

At the request of the UNI Faculty Senate, a focused working group was convened to provide a recommendation as to where Construction Management (CM) should be housed. In February 2025, the committee submitted its [recommendation](#) as well as a [minority opinion](#). Though the recommendation was mixed, the majority of committee members recommended that CM remain College of Humanities Arts and Sciences (CHAS). Moreover, a recent face-to-face meeting with Construction Management students also suggested that the majority of them were supportive of CM remaining within CHAS. Consequently, as we continue the process of separating the Department of Applied Engineering and Technical Management (AETM) into two departments: Construction Management and Applied Engineering, both departments will report up through CHAS. Thank you to Drs. Mark Welford and Colin Weeks for leading the effort and the rest of the committee for engaging in the hard work of providing Provost Herrera with a recommendation on this important decision. Thank you to the following individuals who served on the Faculty Senate working group:

**Faculty Senate Leadership:**

- Melissa Dobosh
- Kenneth Elgersma
- Alexa Clements

**Construction Management Placement Committee:**

- Colin Weeks, CHAS faculty, co-chair
- Randy Sharp, CHAS- CM faculty
- Christine Schrage, WLSN faculty
- James Dugdale, WLSN faculty
- Chris Shaw, AETM Staff
- Payton Olson, AETM student
- Mark Welford, CSBS Department Head, co-chair
- Leslie Wilson, WLSN Dean
- Jenny Cooley CHAS Interim Dean
- Jim Kiesey, Advisory Board Member
- Matt Burch, Industry Partner

To prepare for the July 1st, 2025 launch of these new departments, we have formed a number of different working groups to assist with the departmental transition and strategic planning. Thank you to Lisa Riedle, AETM Department Head and Stewart Carter, Chief Applied Engineering Administrator for their leadership, collaboration, and on-going commitment to a successful transition. We also extend our gratitude to the following faculty, staff, and community partners for their assistance.

**Applied Engineering Focused Working Group**

- Stewart Carter, Chief Applied Engineering Administrator
- Lee Geisinger, AETM-Graphic Tech
- Scott Giese, AETM-AE

- Drew James, Metal Casting Center, Foundry 4.0
- Srikant Revuru, AETM-AE
- Julie Zhe Zhang, AETM-AE
- Jin Zhu, AETM-AE
- Sam Liang, AETM-AE

#### **Construction Management Focused Working Group**

- Karen Breitbach, Chemistry
- Jennifer Cooley, CHAS
- Shoshanna Coon, CHAS
- David Grant, Languages and Literatures
- Robert Harmon, AETM-CM
- Lisa Riedle, AETM-CM
- Randy Sharp, AETM-CM

#### **Marketing and Admissions Taskforce**

- Jamie Jones, University Relations
- Adam Amdor, University Relations
- Terri Crumley, Admissions
- Becca Hildebrand, Admissions
- Michaela Kendall, CHAS

#### **Strategic Planning Leadership**

- Drew Conrad, Institute for Decision Making
- Karla Organist, Institute for Decision Making
- Scott Giese, AE co-chair
- Ryan Cawelti, AE co-chair
- John Williams, CM co-chair
- Bob Harmon, CM co-chair

#### **Project Management Team**

- Stewart Carter, Chief Applied Engineering Administrator
- Drew Conrad, Institute for Decision Making
- Jennifer Cooley, CHAS
- Shoshanna Coon, CHAS
- Terri Crumley, Admissions
- Stephanie Huffman, GROE
- Lisa Riedle, AETM
- Srikant Revuru, AETM

Finally, it is our pleasure to share that we are already starting to see increases in applications in both programs. As of 27 March, 191 applications have been submitted in applied engineering and 122 applications in Construction Management. That is about 46 and 27 more applications compared to last year at the same time (31.7 and 28.7% increases, respectively). These results bode well for both departments' growth (a principal reason we undertook the separation of AETM).

Additional updates on the project can be found in the Academic Positioning [website](#).

Sincerely,  
Deedee Heistad and Steph Huffman, AP co-chairs