

October 16th, 2024

Colleagues,

Last month I shared an update on our efforts to stand up two new departments and make our Construction Management and Applied Engineering programs even more attractive to our prospective students and their families. While most faculty were generally supportive of separating AETM into the two departments, I understand the recommendation to move Construction Management from CHAS to WLSN has created anxiety among some faculty.

Over the last several weeks Associate Provost Nielsen, Interim Associate Provost Heistad, and I have been meeting with faculty leadership in an effort to chart a pathway forward. Together we agreed that we should continue with the plan to separate AETM into two departments. We still anticipate the BOR will approve this request at the November meeting. This action will give us sufficient time to work out the complicated details to stand up two different departments by 1 July 2025. The Applied Engineering and the Construction Management focused working groups will continue working on PACs, budgets, reporting lines, staffing organizational structures, etc.

In the meantime, Faculty Chair Dobosh, Faculty Senate Chair Elgersma, and Faculty Senate Vice-Chair Clements have agreed to help craft a charge for a new committee to consider whether Construction Management should move to the Wilson College of Business. Faculty leadership assured me that this committee would be balanced and include members of the Wilson College of Business and the Construction Management community. We agreed that the faculty leadership and administration will work together to propose the composition of the committee. Faculty leadership will provide a narrow charge and identify a process for this committee to take to deliver a recommendation. Faculty leadership agreed to have these materials ready by October 24<sup>th</sup> so that we can meet again to discuss (and modify, if necessary) their plan.

In closing, I want to thank everyone involved in this important good faith effort to elevate two new departments and make our Construction Management and Applied Engineering programs even more attractive to our prospective students and their families.

Sincerely,

José