

June 12th, 2024

To: AETM Department

Dear Colleagues,

Since our meeting with you in May, President Nook and I have continued our efforts to address the challenges currently faced by AETM. We have created an Executive Advisory Committee that includes: Nick Bruns, John Deere; Drew Conrad, UNI; Jennifer Cooley, UNI; Ben Hammes, MBI; and Deirdre Heistad, UNI. President Nook and I will continue meeting with this group throughout the summer in order to create a draft charge that can be given to Academic Positioning in early Fall 2024.

As you know, we have been seriously considering dividing Applied Engineering and Construction Management in an effort to promote and nurture each program's distinctiveness. This would allow each program to craft a discipline-specific strategy to provide a more focused student experience and strengthen marketing and recruitment opportunities. Our current thinking is that beginning in Fall 2025 Applied Engineering and Construction Management will be two distinct departments, both to be housed in the new Applied Engineering Building. During the 2024-2025 academic year, we plan to use the Academic Positioning (AP) process to revise the organizational structure of AETM in an effort to increase enrollment, particularly in Applied Engineering, while elevating both Construction Management and Applied Engineering.

As the Academic Positioning process moves forward, we will count on your participation and feedback. Interim Associate Provost Deedee Heistad and Associate VP and Dean of Graduate, Research, and Online Education, Stephanie Huffman will serve as the Academic Positioning co-chairs. Together, they will co-chair the Project Management Team (PMT) which will guide and support the Focused Working Groups. A call for volunteers to serve on one of the Focused Working Groups will come out in early August. If you have any questions comments, or would like to learn more about the AP process please, reach out to Deedee Heistad at d.heistad@uni.edu).

As always, please reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

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