

June 27th, 2024

To: AETM Department

Dear Colleagues,

As promised, I want to provide another update regarding the conversations I've been having with the Executive Advisory Committee (EAC) concerning AETM.

Yesterday (26 June), the EAC met for the third time to discuss some of the elements of the charge that will be given to Academic Positioning in the Fall semester. Based on these conversations I wanted to let you know the following:

1. We will move forward with plans to reorganize the Department of Applied Engineering and Technical Management (AETM) into the Department of Applied Engineering and the Department of Construction Management. If we can get logistics, appropriate approvals, and details worked out, this change will happen starting in the Fall of 2025. Throughout our meetings with the department, advisory boards, and industry partners, we did not hear much (if any) concerns about doing this. We've also heard from several industry partners who support the proposed changes and are eager to assist. There are many details to work out in making this change and I have met with Dr. Riedle, Dean Cooley, and President Nook to see if we can establish a 2024-2025 decision-making timeline that would allow us to start Fall 2025 with two new departments.
2. Although we are still determining the reporting structures, the intent is to ensure you stay in a similar position in either (or both) departments.
3. We have started conversations with Dr. Riedle, Dean Cooley, the President's Office, and the Board office about how we can structure the departments under two department heads.
4. To start the process, we will need to search for an engineering consultant who will help implement some of these structural changes in the Spring and Summer of 2025. This will be a national search that we hope to launch sometime this summer.
5. We plan to meet with the Executive Advisory board of AETM early in August (virtually) to close the loop on a conversation we started in April and also plan to meet, in person, with all members of the AETM Department to make sure we are available for questions and comments.
6. Our next conversation with EAC will focus on resources needed to elevate both Construction Management and Applied Engineering.

Finally, please remember that you should all feel free to reach out to Deedee or me should you have any questions, comments, or concerns. We understand that change can be difficult, so please reach out anytime. We will continue to work on the parameters of the Academic Positioning charge so that we are ready to work with you on the details of this reorganization next Fall.

Sincerely,

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