

September 16, 2024

Dear colleagues,

On 15 August of this year, and as part of our Academic Positioning process, we convened a Construction Management Focused Working Group (CM-FWG) to review the Executive Advisory Committee's (EAC) recommendation to move Construction Management (CM) to the Wilson College of Business. Specifically, the FWG, was asked to review the administrative recommendation and provide any additional evidence that may be missing. Earlier this week the CM-FWG submitted to me their report that included several considerations to discuss.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to CM-FWG composed of Dr. Joseph Ugrin, Department of Accounting (Co-Chair); Dr. Lisa A. Riedle, Department of Applied Engineering & Technical Management (Co-Chair); Dr. Andy Anderson, Department of Management; and Mr. Randy Sharp, Department of Applied Engineering & Technical Management. I appreciate the work they did in highlighting several items that need further discussion in order to facilitate a successful transition. While some of these considerations were discussed over the summer by the EAC, other items will need to be addressed by faculty and staff through the on-going work of the Construction Management and Applied Engineering (AE) FWG's under the auspices of Academic Positioning.

In reviewing the [report](#), I did not see any compelling evidence to suggest that the recommendation provided by the EAC (to move CM to the Wilson College of Business) should be delayed. The next step in the process will be to seek approval of the changes to the Board of Regents (BOR). As such, I've asked Dr. Deedee Heistad, Interim Associate Provost of Academic Affairs, to formally submit our request to the BOR for their consideration. This step is needed now to meet the Board of Regents meeting deadlines for their November meeting, and—more importantly—provide us sufficient time to collectively work through important details concerning internal department governance, budget, staffing, advisory boards, recruitment, marketing, tenure and promotion documents, and strategic planning between now and 1 July, 2025. Until then, our current organizational structure of the department of AETM will continue and Dr. Lisa Riedle will remain as the Department Head; the department will stay within the College of Humanities, Arts and Sciences (CHAS), and follow traditional processes for making decisions within this structure.

Once again, I want to thank the members of the EAC, the CM-FWG, the AETM advisory boards, for undertaking this preliminary work. This work was completed in a 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. Our work is not complete. Focused Working Groups will continue their work throughout this academic year to provide recommendations on how we can operationalize the changes while taking into account the considerations provided by the CM-FWG. I look forward to their ideas and diligence as we work out the multitude of details to get us two new departments by 1 July 2025.

Sincerely,

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