



Robert C. May
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Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate
Faculty Representative to the Regents
University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
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April 11, 2018

MICHAEL T. BROWN
PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Re: Approval of Master of Engineering (MEng) at UC Irvine

Dear Michael,

In accordance with the *Universitywide Review Processes For Academic Programs, Units, and Research Units* (the “Compendium”), and on the recommendation of CCGA, the Academic Council has approved UC Irvine’s proposal to establish a self-supporting graduate program leading to a Master of Engineering (MEng) degree.

Because this is a new degree title, and the Assembly of the Academic Senate is not meeting within 30 days of CCGA’s approval, Council must approve the program per Senate Bylaw 125.B.7.

I am enclosing CCGA’s report on its review of the new program, and respectfully request that your office complete the process of obtaining the President’s approval.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Robert C. May, Chair
Academic Council

cc: Academic Council
Senate Directors



COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS (CCGA)

Onyebuchi A. Arah, Chair
arah@ucla.edu

ACADEMIC SENATE

University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

February 28, 2018

ACADEMIC SENATE CHAIR ROBERT MAY

Dear Robert,

At its February 6 meeting, the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) voted 8-0-1 to approve a new Master of Engineering (MEng) as a self-supporting graduate professional degree program (SSGPDP) on the Irvine campus.

The proposed MEng program, which will be administered by the Samueli School of Engineering (SSoE) at UCI, aims to train students in the foundation, skills and practices of engineering in a broad range of specialties. It will equip students with the technical, the practical and the leadership skills to become leaders, technical managers or entrepreneurs. In line with its professional rather than research focus, the MEng students will acquire integrative knowledge of systems and hands-on knowledge and experience in an applied domain through a capstone project. This new program will be meet a big unmet need on the Irvine campus where the existing graduate programs are over-subscribed. There is also a very strong market demand for engineers with professional masters training.

CCGA received four of the five agreed reviews. They noted the strengths of the program and provided specific areas for clarification and improvement. The academic program was considered strong but potential pitfalls were identified in the program expansion. The faculty were considered top-notch although some concerns were raised about the need for reinvestment to ensure continued faculty leadership. Overall the planned facilities were viewed as a strength. Some reviewers felt that the student pool might differ from proposers' expectations, but all noted the strong employment prospects of the graduates.

CCGA felt the proposers were thorough and recommends approval of the proposal. Finally, CCGA notes that the University Committee on Planning and Budget (UCPB) also reviewed the proposal and found it to be compellingly strong and comprehensive.

As you know, CCGA's approval is the last stop of the Academic Senate side of the Systemwide review and approval process except when the new degree title must be approved by the President, under delegated authority from The Board of Regents. I submit this for your review and have enclosed the proposer's response. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions regarding the proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Onyebuchi A. Arah". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Onyebuchi A. Arah
Chair, Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA)

cc: Kum-Kum Bhavnani Academic Council Vice Chair
CCGA Members
Hilary Baxter, Academic Senate Executive Director
Jocelyn Banaria, Academic Senate Assistant Director
Chris Procello, Academic Planning and Research Analyst
Frances Leslie, UCI Graduate Dean
Kate Brigman, UCI Academic Senate Executive Director
Thao Nguyen, UCI Academic Senate Analyst

Enclosures (1)

CCGA has reviewed the recent proposal from UC Irvine to establish a new Master of Engineering program in the School of Engineering. CCGA has obtained expert evaluations, both from non- UC faculty and from UC faculty at campuses other than the proposing campus.

The aim of this proposal is to establish a self-supporting professionally-oriented Master of Engineering program (MEng) at UCI. This degree program will be administered by the Samueli School of Engineering (SSoE). The Master of Engineering program's goal is to train students in the foundation, skills and practices of engineering in different concentrations, and to instill in students skills that go beyond purely technical education, preparing them to become leaders, whether technical managers in large companies or entrepreneurs starting their own enterprises. Rather than having a research focus, the ME program will require students to acquire integrative knowledge of systems, as well as hands-on knowledge and experience in an applied domain through a capstone project.

Reviewers were asked to comment on the proposal strengths, as well as its weaknesses. In particular, reviewers were asked to comment on the following issues:

- Quality and academic rigor of the program
- Adequacy of the size and expertise of faculty to administer the program
- Adequacy of the facilities and budgets
- Applicant pool and placement prospects for the graduates

CCGA received four of the five agreed reviews. All three note the overall strengths of the program but also provide specific areas for clarification and improvement. The reviews consistently identified important strengths of the proposed programs and only minor weakness. The academic program was considered strong but potential pitfalls were identified in the expansion. The faculty were uniformly viewed as top notch but some concerns were raised as to the plan for reinvestment to ensure continued faculty leadership. Overall the planned facilities were viewed as a strength, although the budget raised some questions for interpretation. Some reviewers expected the student pool to differ from expectations, but all expected the employment prospects for graduates to be strong.

In my opinion, the reviews all supported the new program, noting only minor weaknesses. Moreover, the UCI responses have satisfactorily addressed all of the issues for clarification that were raised.

RECOMMENDATION: CCGA commends UCI on this proposal and recommends that the proposed MEng degree program be approved.