

Board Meeting
May 11, 2006

MERGE DEPARTMENTS OF THEORETICAL AND APPLIED MECHANICS AND
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING IN THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND
REDESIGNATE THE DEPARTMENT AS MECHANICAL SCIENCE AND
ENGINEERING, URBANA

Action: Approve the Merger of the Departments of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics and Mechanical Engineering in the College of Engineering and Redesignate the Department as Mechanical Science and Engineering

Funding: No Funding Required

The Chancellor at Urbana with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends for approval a proposal from the College of Engineering and the Graduate College to merge the Departments of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics and Mechanical Engineering in the College of Engineering and Redesignate the Department as Mechanical Science and Engineering.

Joining the Theoretical and Applied Mechanics (TAM) and Mechanical Engineering programs will allow the organization to: increase the size of the historically small existing TAM Department, enhance the strong intellectual focus of mechanics in the Mechanical Engineering Department, build on the natural convergence of TAM and Mechanical Engineering research interests, and provide greater resources for maintaining and increasing the current standards of excellence in the existing degree programs.

All existing Mechanical Engineering degrees will continue unchanged and all existing Theoretical and Applied Mechanics degrees will be moved to the new merged

unit. Students currently pursuing a Theoretical and Applied Mechanics degree or wishing to do so, will be unaffected by the merger. They will simply pursue the same degree under the auspices of the newly merged department with the support of a larger more robust faculty.

This merger proposal was supported by the College Executive Committee and the College Administrative Committee and was supported by a majority vote of the College faculty.

The board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects with applicable State and Federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes, The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs in this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University recommends approval, pending further review by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.