

Board Meeting
May 16, 2019

RENAME THE MECHANICAL ENGINEERING BUILDING, URBANA

Action: Rename the Mechanical Engineering Building

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Vice President, University of Illinois recommends for approval a proposal from the Dean of the College of Engineering, the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost, and the Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement to rename the Mechanical Engineering Building (MEB) as the Sidney Lu Mechanical Engineering Building.

The renaming would coincide with the completion of the “Transform MEB” project, which includes building a significant addition (greater than 25,000 square feet) directly east of MEB, enclosing an MEB courtyard to create educational laboratory space (3,322 square feet), and making needed mechanical and functional updates to the existing classrooms, academic program offices, and other spaces currently in MEB (greater than 66,000 square feet). The Department of Mechanical Science and Engineering (MechSE) offers a rigorous engineering curriculum with hands-on activities, learning-by-doing projects, and team-based problem-solving, essential complements to classroom instruction. The renovated facility and addition will provide the space, technology and tools to support these activities.

Mr. Sidney Lu is a recipient of both the Distinguished Alumnus award from the MechSE Department (2011) and the College of Engineering (2015), having graduated in 1981 with a B.S. in mechanical engineering and mathematics. Mr. Lu and his two brothers each left their home in Taiwan to attend the University of Illinois. Mr. Lu took full advantage of the opportunity, earning 58 credit hours in his first year, almost twice as many as a typical freshman. That work ethic continued in his illustrious career as he gained extensive experience in the interconnect technology business. To this day, Mr. Lu beams with pride when he returns to campus and addresses the MechSE and campus community. The enthusiasm and gratitude he shows to MechSE and to Illinois has been expressed consistently over the past several years, with significant financial support to MechSE since 2012.

The Transform MEB project would not happen without Mr. Lu. His generous financial contributions toward the Mechanical Engineering Building will prove invaluable for student education and MechSE's standing as one of the top engineering departments in the world.

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 President of the University concurs.