May 15, 2014

Dr. Rex Peebles
Assistant Commissioner
Workforce, Academic Affairs and Research
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
1200 East Anderson Lane
Interagency Mail

Dear Dr. Peebles:

This is to notify the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board that The University of Texas at Austin is creating a five-year, integrated program leading to the Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (BSEE) and the Master of Science in Engineering (MSE) degrees. The integrated program will allow students to earn both a bachelor's and master's degree in five years by reducing the required number of hours for the undergraduate degree from 125 to 120.

Coordinating Board approval is not required because U. T. Austin is already authorized to offer both degrees, and the integrated program meets the minimum requirements for both the undergraduate and graduate degrees. By copy of this letter, I am notifying the Counsel and Secretary to the Board of our approval.

Sincerely,

Pedro Reyes
Executive Vice Chancellor
And Ashbel Smith Professor of Education Policy

PR/smr
Attachments

c: President William Powers  
   Dr. Greg Fenves  
   General Counsel to the Board of Regents Francie A. Frederick
March 31, 2014

Pedro Reyes  
Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
The University of Texas System  
P4300

Dear Dr. Reyes,

I recommend for your approval a nonsubstantive proposal to create a five-year, integrated program leading to the Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering (BSEE) and the Master of Science in Engineering (MSE) degrees. The Graduate Assembly unanimously approved this proposal on March 19, 2014, on the recommendation of its Academic Committee, and it was subsequently approved by Judith H. Langlois, Senior Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies. The undergraduate aspects of this proposal were approved by the university’s Faculty Council on Friday, March 28, 2014, and these documents were recently forwarded to you for approval.

The integrated Engineering degree program follows the structure of the integrated program currently offered by the Department of Computer Science which simultaneously awards the BSCS and MSCS degrees at the end of five years and is similar to other programs at top-ranked electrical and computer engineering programs in the country. The integrated program allows students to earn both a bachelor’s and master’s degree in five years by reducing the required number of hours for the undergraduate degree from 125 to 120. Students who complete the program will be equipped with the knowledge and skills appropriate for professional positions that demand an MSE degree as the working degree and will improve student preparation for competitive PhD programs.

Enclosed is a copy of the proposal documents for your information and approval. It is my understanding that Coordinating Board approval is not required as the University is already authorized to offer both degrees and the proposed program meets the minimum requirements for both the undergraduate and graduate degrees. You may, however, wish to notify the Coordinating Board of this new integrated bachelor’s and master’s degree program.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Gregory J. Fenves  
Executive Vice President and Provost

GLF/mlb

Enclosures

c: Lincoln Holmes & Allison Danforth, Information Management and Analysis