

## **ACTION ITEM #12(f)**

### **Extension of Master's Degree (Erica Weintraub Austin)**

May 6, 2016

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

**SUBJECT:** Extension of Master's Degree

**PROPOSED:** That the Board of Regents approve extension of the Master of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering to the WSU Vancouver Campus

**SUBMITTED BY:** Erica Weintraub Austin, Interim Co-Provost

**SUPPORTING  
INFORMATION:**

The School of Engineering and Computer Science proposes to extend its Master of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering to the WSU Vancouver campus.

WSU is a land grant university with a mission to provide access to higher education. Currently, there is no MS-EE degree available in Southwest Washington. Offering this program at WSU Vancouver will provide access to place-bound students in this corner of the state and will help fulfill the university and the campus missions. Recently, the university completed a 120-day study of its research enterprise. The study resulted in the identification of five "Grand Challenge" research themes. These themes will provide focus in university efforts to communicate research strengths and will serve as a basis for prioritization of major university research investment. The proposed MS-EE program at WSU Vancouver is directly related to *the Improving Quality of Life through Smart Systems* grand challenge.

Part of WSU Vancouver's mission is to offer "relevant education; advancing knowledge and creativity; and engaging with the community." WSU Vancouver is located in a high tech industrial region where there is demand for well-educated technical workforce for not just production but also for advancing the existing technology through research and development. The proposed MS-EE degree program is relevant education for the students and industry in this region. The graduate education, research skills gained from this program and the research collaboration opportunities will help with advancing knowledge and creativity. WSU Vancouver is well known for being engaged in its community. Similarly, the School of ENCS is engaged in

the regional industrial community through student capstone projects, research collaborations and internships. Offering the proposed MS-EE degree program will help expand opportunities to further engage with the community, especially with the high tech industry.

At a meeting on March 1, 2016, the Graduate Studies Committee approved the proposal to extend the Master of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering to the WSU Vancouver campus with an effective date of fall 2016.

The following were noted and addressed during the review process:

- Only the General Option will be extended at this time
- No changes were made to the existing curriculum

The proposal has support from the Provost, Budget Committee, Catalog Subcommittee, and the Library Committee. This recommendation was passed by the Faculty Senate on March 31, 2016.