ACTION ITEM #14
Establishment of School
(Erica Weintraub Austin)

May 6, 2016

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

SUBJECT: Establishment of School

PROPOSED: That the Board of Regents establish the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences on the WSU Tri-Cities Campus

SUBMITTED BY: Erica Weintraub Austin, Interim Co-Provost

SUPPORTING
INFORMATION: The proposed School of Engineering and Applied Sciences on the WSU Tri-Cities campus will emphasize interdisciplinary teaching, research, and service, fostering effective student retention, timely degree-program completion, and international-education activities, and is justified as both:

- an enabling outcome of the WSU and VCEA strategic plans as well the WSU Tri-Cities academic master plan, and
- a natural evolution of the current Engineering and Computer Science programs, which have been operating as a self-contained unit.

Theme 3 in the VCEA strategic plan specifically calls for the strengthening and continued growth of sites that serve place-bound students, including WSU Tri-Cities. This also supports the WSU Strategic Plan's Theme 3.

An official School of Engineering and Applied Sciences on the Tri-Cities campus will project a compelling sense of program completeness, dynamism, and self-reliance to the community, research partners, domestic and overseas, and prospective students and their families, which will sustain our enrollment, research, and service activities. WSU Tri-Cities has been offering degree programs in Computer Science and Civil, Electrical, as well as Mechanical Engineering, at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Over the years, enrollment in these programs has been rising, academic advisement to students has been expanding, research has been progressing, and new faculty members have been hired, tenure-track and clinical, with their home campus in the Tri-

Cities. These programs have been established to serve the regional economy of central and south-east Washington, by also addressing the regional industry demand for profession-ready graduates. Recent industry surveys about this demand indicates an enduring need for graduates with a college-level education in, for instance, software engineering, construction, water resources, power generation, and alternative energies. Our programs produce these graduates in increasing numbers to contribute to satisfy this demand.

All of the existing WSU Tri-Cities undergraduate and graduate Engineering and Computer Science programs will be incorporated in the proposed new school; neither new programs nor curriculum changes to the existing programs are proposed to establish the new school.

The existing programs to be incorporated in the new school are:

- Computer Science, BA, BS, MS
- Civil Engineering, BS, MS
- Electrical Engineering, BS, MS
- Environmental Engineering, MS
- Mechanical Engineering, BS, MS
- Nuclear Engineering, Graduate Certificate

These programs are all approved for the Tri-Cities campus and are closely aligned with their Pullman counterparts, according to the "one degree" principle, as they employ the same courses, standards, and WSU catalog sections.

The new school will provide its faculty with a desirable sense of belonging to and ownership of a clearly identified unit. Such allegiance will in turn empower the faculty to foster with even greater enthusiasm the continued evolution of the school programs and engender in them a heightened loyalty to their unit, which will promote a successful development of their careers at WSU.

On February 16, 2016, the Faculty Affairs Committee approved the request to create a School of Engineering and Applied Sciences at the WSU Tri-Cities Campus. On February 18, 2016, the Faculty Executive Committee along with the Steering Committee also approved the proposal.