

To: WSU Electronic Engineering Technology (EET) Program Faculty and Staff

From: Dean David L. Ferro

Re: Dean's Response to EET Self-Study, Reviewers' Report, and EET Program's Response to Utah Five Year Review

Date: 8/18/15

Thank you all for your many contributions to WSU's EET Review process. All EET faculty members as and others in the Engineering Technology (ET) department, especially the chair, Rick Orr, as well as COAST/EAST's former dean, Warren Hill, participated in various stages of this review, and I am grateful to you for your thoughtfulness and thoroughness in addressing concerns of importance to the program, department, college, and university.

Like the writers of the Review Report, I would characterize the program as very effective in meeting the missions of the parent units. Faculty members have been sensitive to changes in their discipline areas and have revised curriculum to keep up with those changes. They have been supportive of co-curricular activities, internships, community-engaged learning, new tools, and collaborative multidisciplinary projects. The faculty have kept up-to-date vis-à-vis industry. There has been some rough spots as the program divided with the creation of the EE program, loss of Building 4, and two new hires. The program is positioning itself for the future.

With respect to challenges identified by reviewers and addressed by faculty it is true that the relationship between EET and EE is evolving. However, two out of the three faculty in EET have taught in EE and have a good relationship with that department. In addition, three instructors in Engineering (two in EET specifically) have taught in Engineering Technology and are very happy to coordinate.

I believe that the program has moved forwards, not backwards since 2012 and continues to do so. However, 2009 is a tough benchmark to measure against. Friction with math is endemic in many departments. Strategic vision will hopefully be rectified through strategic planning being instituted this fall. I agree that the program needs to address the learning outcomes issue and that may be related to their evolving strategic direction. Teaching loads are high just as other programs in the college are, however, many classes are very low in enrollments. Other classes are not required for the major. Without strategic direction (power and motors is also needed in EE for example) I do not recommend a new faculty hire. If the facilities need better maintenance then that will be addressed. However, this likely will find some remedy with construction of the south end of ET building adding some labs. IAC issues should be addressed. Assessment approaches are still young and need time to mature but seem oriented correctly.

WSU's EET program has suffered with the recent transition. It has taken many positive steps to come back on line and address enrollments, assessment, resources, and curriculum matters. Its next steps will carry it yet farther along a road to success for students, faculty, and staff.

David L. Ferro, dean

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