



Friday, July 12, 2002

Mechanical engineering doctorate considered

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

To meet the regional demand for qualified mechanical engineers in one of the country's fastest growing high technology and manufacturing areas, Oakland University's **School of Engineering and Computer Science** (SECS) has created a proposal for a doctorate in mechanical engineering degree.

Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Virinder Moudgil and SECS Dean Pieter Frick presented the proposal to the **OU Board of Trustees** at its July 10 working session. In addition to preparing students for careers in industrial or governmental research, development laboratories, or academic positions, the proposed degree also would increase the level of research activities, further enhance OU's graduate course offerings and stimulate additional interaction with local industries, Frick said. These goals also are consistent with many of the goals expressed in the **2010 Oakland University Profile**.

The Department of Mechanical Engineering has been supervising Ph.D. students in systems engineering with specialization areas of engineering mechanics, fluid and thermal sciences, manufacturing processes, and other interdisciplinary areas since 1972. The proposed Ph.D. in mechanical engineering would benefit from the broad expertise of OU's faculty and well-established laboratory facilities and meet the demands from both students and local industry.

The board will vote on the proposal at its Aug. 7 meeting. If approved, the program could start as soon as the fall 2002 semester.

OTHER ITEMS PRESENTED BEFORE THE BOARD:

Auxiliary budgets for FY 2003, 2004 and 2005

As part of the university's annual budget process, the projected budgets for the following 10 auxiliaries were brought to the board for approval:

- Campus Recreation
- Graham Health Center
- Intercollegiate Athletics
- Lowry Early Childhood Education Center
- Meadow Brook Hall
- Meadow Brook Health Enhancement Institute
- Meadow Brook Music Festival
- Meadow Brook Theatre
- Oakland Center
- University Housing

Revisions to the gift policy – donor recognition

The Oakland University Foundation recommended that the gift society names be revised. The names provide a means of acknowledging commitments to OU by granting recognition status in association with other donors.

OU standards of satisfactory academic progress

The university recommended that the current standards of academic progress that students must comply with to receive federal, state and university financial aid be revised. The updated standards will remove administrative barriers for students, promote better customer service and communication between the university and the students, and implement a system that will not penalize students who perform poorly early in their academic careers.

Public School Academies

The university recommended the approval of one renewal and two new public school academy board members, the addition of a seventh and eighth grade to the curriculum of the Dove Academy of Detroit, and approval of a contract for the Detroit Academy of Arts and Sciences to operate as a Pre-K to Grade 12 public school academy.

The full meeting agenda and most supporting materials are available on the **Board of Trustees** Web site. All board materials

are available for review in the Oakland University Board Office, 203 Wilson Hall. For more information, contact Rhonda Saunders at (248) 370-3112 or saunders@oakland.edu.

SUMMARY

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