

Proposed Name Change

September 24, 2002

A name change is requested by the Department of Aerospace Engineering and Engineering Mechanics. The department is requesting that its name be changed from Aerospace Engineering and Engineering Mechanics to the **Department of Aerospace Engineering**.

The Department of Aerospace Engineering and Engineering Mechanics was formed in 1990 by the merger of the predecessor Department of Aerospace Engineering and the Department of Engineering Science and Mechanics. Since the merger, the department has administered undergraduate programs in engineering science and in aerospace engineering; graduate programs in aerospace engineering and in engineering mechanics; as well as being responsible for service course offerings in engineering mechanics at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

During the 2001-2002 academic year, the department was encouraged by the College of Engineering to reconsider its mission and focus and it has done so. As part of that initial strategic planning exercise, the department has decided to refocus its emphasis on the aerospace engineering aspects of its activity, including those disciplines in engineering mechanics that are most closely aligned with aerospace engineering. More specific strategic planning is underway, and a separate proposal to eliminate the very small engineering science undergraduate program (21 students total) is being pursued.

As a part of the departmental refocusing, the faculty has voted to request a name change to better reflect the new mission and focus of the department. The proposed change is well aligned with other similar programs across the country and with industry expectations. The renamed department will continue to administer undergraduate and graduate programs in aerospace engineering; more focused graduate programs in engineering mechanics, service courses in engineering mechanics, and the phase out of the engineering science program (if its elimination is approved).

The College of Engineering administration is supportive of the proposed name change and requests its approval.