MEMORANDUM

TO: Tim Sands, Provost
FROM: Gary Bertoline, Dean
DATE: November 22, 2013
RE: Department Mergers

The College of Technology is seeking approval for the merger of the Department of Mechanical Engineering Technology (MET) and the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Technology (ECET). The merged departments will be renamed the School of Engineering Technology (ET). The faculty in both departments have approved the merger and have been working on measures to consolidate the administration and curricula of the programs. This request is being made without the need for additional financial resources.

The faculty task force charged with considering a merger of the departments concluded that the merger is a unique opportunity to capitalize and build on existing strengths in both departments in an effort to realign the curricula with national trends to better serve the needs of students. The combined departments will have nearly 50 faculty members and approximately 1,000 majors in West Lafayette and Statewide Technology, and 50 graduate students.

The merger will result in both administrative and curriculum efficiencies. The administrative efficiencies will include one less department head, one less associate department head, and one less secretary. Faculty committee assignments will be reduced for most standing committees as they are merged. The academic efficiencies will initially include the merging of overlapping course content in both departments resulting in fewer courses offered for existing degree programs.

The merger will also result in new learning opportunities for students and research opportunities and improve on existing competencies and strengths in each department. These new efforts will result in degree programs at the undergraduate and graduate levels that have significant research and funding opportunities as well as strong interest from business and industry. Students, alumni, and friends of the programs have been and will be part of the process to merge the departments. As noted in the attached proposal summary, we have received strong support from our Industry Advisory Boards, which consists of many alumni, potential employers, and parents of current and future students.

The merger of MET and ECET will result in new learning, discovery, and engagement opportunities for our students and faculty, and better serve the needs of the State of Indiana and the nation. I ask that the Board of Trustees approve this merger.