November 24, 2015

Dear College of Engineering and Computer Science Faculty and Staff:

During our budget rebalancing discussions last spring colleagues in CECS were asked for their input regarding a variety of budgetary and programmatic issues. A great deal of discussion focused on the programs or concentrations housed under the BSE degree, which are nuclear, interdisciplinary, STEM, industrial, environmental, and computer engineering. The input from college faculty was very clear regarding the ability to maintain certain programs, the efficiency, and the employability of graduates in specific programs or concentrations. Additionally conversations have occurred with external constituents regarding the value and/or employability of students graduating with the BSE with a concentration in one of the areas mentioned. After much consideration and deliberation of the input provided by internal and external constituents, a final decision has been made regarding these programs.

The BSE will remain intact and an available degree for any of the programs that will be maintained. At some point in the future the college may decide to no longer maintain the BSE. Second, any program being eliminated will provide students currently in the program the opportunity to complete the program or change to another program. There must be a 'teach out' plan for any program to ensure we meet our obligation to students who have chosen to complete degrees in a chosen area.

The following programs will be eliminated the end of the fall 2015 semester. No students should be recruited or admitted into these programs beginning immediately. The programs to be eliminated are nuclear, interdisciplinary and STEM. Computer engineering, industrial engineering and environmental engineering will be evaluated and associated within an existing department as appropriate. Discussion will be initiated in spring 2016 to determine appropriate alignment of computer, industrial and environmental engineering.

A. Jerald Ainsworth
Provost