

January 10, 2014

To: Steve Crouch, Dean CSE

From: Tom Shield, Chair CSE Curriculum Committee 

RE: Proposed Environmental Engineering Degree offered by the CE Department

The CSE CC met on December 10, 2013 and discussed this degree with representatives present from the CE and BBE Departments in addition to the usual committee members. The bulk of the discussion focused on the difference between this degree and the Environmental and Ecological Engineering degree offered by the BBE Department (see the attached handout provided by the BBE Department). It was agreed that these are substantially different degrees with the BBE degree focusing on rural issues while the CE degree focuses on urban issues to put it simply. The main issue raised was how to effectively differentiate between these degrees for incoming students. It was suggested that the new degree might add "Civil" or something similar to the name to make this distinction clearer as environmental engineering is a rather wide field. It is expected that the new degree will interest students that might otherwise study chemical engineering, which is one of our programs that has to deny students admission due to space limitations.

The final consensus of the committee was that this degree will be a good addition to the college given the current level of interest in environmental studies by students.

Attachments:

BBE comparison of degrees