

FRESNO STATE

Lyles College of Engineering

13 April 2015

To: Lynnette Zelezny
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Dennis Nef
Vice Provost

Kevin Ayotte
Chair, Academic Senate

Michael Caldwell
Associate Vice President for Faculty Affairs

From: Ram Nunna 
Dean, Lyles College of Engineering

We are requesting that the Construction Management Program be renamed as the Department of Construction Management.

The Construction Management Program has been a standalone program in the Lyles College of Engineering for about 8 years. Prior to this, it was part of the Department of Civil, Geomatics and Construction in the Lyles College. The Construction Management program has the following features:

- Nationally accredited curriculum. The program is accredited by American Council for Construction Education. There is a substantial body of knowledge unique to Construction Management
- Very active Industry Advisory Board
- Successful alumni
- Five full time tenure track/tenured faculty members
- Faculty members are active in Construction Management related professional organizations
- Faculty members serve on national review teams for accreditation, and industry standards
- Dedicated Administrative Support Coordinator
- Strong partnerships with community and industry
- Active student chapters of professional organizations
- Scholarships and grants dedicated to Construction Management
- Tracked separately for budget and all other data (Peoplesoft, JD Edwards)
- The current Program Coordinator already has the same level of assigned time and academic administrative responsibilities as the other Department Chairs in the Lyles College.

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THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

The 2014-15 academic year is the first year where we have had five full time tenure track faculty members in the Construction Management program. Per APM 113, the Policy on Academic Organization and Governance (the relevant section is attached), there must be at least five tenure track or tenured faculty members in order for a program to be classified as a department. The Construction Management program meets this requirement.

The reclassification of the Construction Management Program as a department will bring greater visibility to the program, eliminate confusion amongst students, community, industry and others regarding 'program' vs. 'department' status within a small college. Furthermore, the reclassification will result in naming consistency at the College level. We presently have three departments and one stand-alone program. The Construction Management industry advisory board is very supportive of this, and has been looking forward to this re-naming. Accreditation review and Program review teams have made recommendations that the Program be classified as a Department as well.

The following are likely to be the only material changes that will result from the proposed renaming:

- The Program Coordinator position will be renamed as Department Chair
- New Business Cards, and Letterheads will need to be printed for all faculty and staff
- The web site will need to be edited
- All references to Construction Management as a program will need to be changed to Department

The PeopleSoft system is already set up to track Construction Management separately for all student data, and also for all financial data. No further changes are needed except for the name change. For all practical purposes, the program has been operating as a 'department' for all these years with the same opportunities as the other departments in the Lyles College.

Because there is no formal defined process of consultation for such matters at the College level, I have consulted with the College Executive Committee (comprising of department chairs and program coordinators), and also the ad hoc Faculty Council comprising the Chairs of all the Lyles College Consultative Body Committees. The consensus is that the Construction Management Program should be renamed as the Department of Construction Management.

Attached is the detailed justification provided by the Construction Management Program faculty.

I fully support the renaming of the Construction Management Program to Department of Construction Management (or Construction Management Department).

Thank you for your consideration.

III. ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF DEPARTMENTS WITHIN COLLEGES/SCHOOLS

In order to establish and maintain an academic department, it shall be demonstrated that

A. The academic scope of the department represents a discrete and clearly defined discipline wherein

1. There exists a substantial body of knowledge unique to the area concerned

2. There exists recognized national, professional, academic, or occupational societies and/or organizations related to the academic scope of the department

3. Accreditation (if appropriate) is in force or in the process of being established.

B. The department will better provide proper and adequate nurturing for the academic scope than the structure under which it presently functions.

C. The program of the proposed department will make an integral and significant contribution to the university's academic mission; it offers a viable degree; and that it advances the programmatic needs of the college/school and university.

D. There exists strong evidence for the department's potential growth, vitality, and educational value.

E. The projected full-time equivalent faculty in the proposed department will be at least seven of whom at least five will be full-time probationary and tenured faculty.

10 December 2014

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Dennis Nef, Vice Provost

From: Manoochehr Zoghi, Ph.D., P.E., Professor & Coordinator, *M. Zoghi*
Construction Management Program

Re: Request to Change the Status from the Construction Management Program to
the Construction Management Department

I. Background

On behalf of the Construction Management (CM) Program faculty, I would like to hereby request the change of the status from CM Program to CM Department. CM at Fresno State has its roots in the Industrial Technology, dated in 1969. At the time, the option emphasized construction contractor training. Over time, the Program evolved and the emphasis shifted towards the direction of the Construction Management. The option further developed into two separate, but related, areas of emphasis, one being management oriented and the other architectural design. In spring 1992, the Bachelor of Science Degree in Construction Management was granted by the California State University Chancellor's Office and in fall 1992, the newly formed Program was relocated into the Department of Civil and Geomatics Engineering and Construction. The management option of the Program was accredited by the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE) in 1996 and subsequently was reaccredited in 2007. The Program was granted autonomy in 2007 and remained under the Construction Management Program status within the Lyles College of Engineering. In spring 2014, the CM program received a full six-year reaccreditation from ACCE.

Recently, an undergraduate curriculum subcommittee, constituting a combination of all full-time CM faculty members and several industry (including alumni) partners, scrutinized the existing curriculum and revitalized the entire program in light of the Chancellor's mandated 120-unit cap and the ACCE requirements. The newly revised curriculum includes several unique features. At lower division, the curriculum is now more consistent with other programs in LCOE and there is a more enhanced articulation process for transfer students, in light of the SB 1440.

At upper division, in addition to offering 'broad-based' construction and business core courses, a wide variety of technical electives are infused to enrich the breadth of the CM Program. The hallmark of the new curriculum is a comprehensive leadership and entrepreneurship initiative, which is integrated

throughout the curriculum. The premise of the proposed endeavor is to create a sustainable program to instill leadership and entrepreneurship development in each student enrolled in the Construction Management Program. The CM faculty at Fresno State maintains a strong tie with the industry. After an extensive deliberation among the faculty and industry representatives, it has been determined that CM students will benefit enormously by gaining proper training/education in relation to leadership principles. In view of the globalization and advances in information technology, there will be a pressing need for a new breed of construction industry leaders. Thus, a unique leadership program has been devised, as part of a newly revised undergraduate CM education that will prepare future construction industry leaders through rigorous study and various mentorship, internship, experiential learning, and organizational activities. Our Granite-Boitano Future Leaders in Construction Management's proposal received \$200 K funding (including Lyles Challenge match) from Granite Construction Company recently. This will provide numerous scholarships for our student leaders during next several years.

As an integral part of the new curriculum is the business minor – whereby, students will concurrently receive a minor in business upon graduation with the CM major. Moreover, (paid) internship is mandatory – requiring up to 600 hours of work experience in the CM field toward fulfillment of the B.S. degree. Other unique features include award-winning service learning program, design-build and sustainability areas of concentration, and senior capstone sequence of courses focusing on interdisciplinary real-life projects, which involve collaborations with other programs on campus such as real estate, anthropology and social sciences, planning and interior design, and various engineering disciplines (with CM taking the lead). We also received the highly prestigious H.E.L.P. (Homebuilding Education Leadership Program) Grant (\$100 K) recently to develop a world-class residential track within CM. Several of our faculty members are intimately involved in DISCOVERe (Tablet) initiative and applied research/scholarly activities.

II. Policy on Academic Organization and Governance, APM 113-3

A. **The academic scope of the department represents a discrete and clearly defined discipline wherein:**

1. There exists a substantial body of knowledge unique to the area concerned

The CM program is a unique, independent, professional degree. In nearly all other universities, construction management is an independent department. Comparable CM departments are: Sacramento State, Chico State, Cal Poly, Washington State, University of Washington, Colorado State, etc.

2. There exists recognized national, professional, academic, or occupational societies and/or organizations related to the academic scope of the department

There are numerous national professional and academic organizations/societies dedicated exclusively to the interests of professional construction and program management. The CM program at Fresno State has been an active member of several national organizations/societies including CMAA (Construction

Management Association of America: <https://cmaanet.org/about-cmaa>), AGC (Associated General Contractors), ASC (Associated Schools of Construction), NAHB (National Association of Home-Builders), CII (Construction Industry Institute), USGBC (U.S. Green Building Council), etc.

3. Accreditation (if appropriate) is enforced or in the process of being established

As mentioned previously, the Construction Management program at Fresno State has been fully accredited by ACCE (American Council for Construction Education) since 1992. Most recently, it received another full, six-year, reaccreditation in spring 2014.

B. The department will better provide an adequate nurturing for the academic scope than the structure under which it presently functions.

The Construction Management program has been functioning independently, similar to other departments within the Lyles College of Engineering, since fall 2007. We have had a comparable office space, a full-time administrative assistant, allocated annual budget, a very active and dedicated industry advisory board, and enjoy all the privileges of any department. Even in many paperwork and correspondences, CM is referred to as a department. As such, **we are not requesting for any additional resources, only the change in title from “program” to “department.”**

It is vital for the CM to change its title to a department. The perception of people, both internally (LCOE and campus) and externally (such as prospective students and their parents, funding agencies, other comparable CM departments, etc) is that the program is a “subset” of a department and has been a major challenge competing for resources and especially outreach and recruiting efforts. Additionally, it has been a handicap for us when we apply for research grants and extramural funding, competing with other CM “departments.”

In 2009, during the ACCE site visit (page 4), the team stated: *“Just recently the administration decided to make the CM Program a “trial” stand alone program with its own budgets and leadership. This was found to be an UNDEVELOPED POTENTIAL in the sense that the program could easily develop into departmental status.”* In 2011, the CSU Fresno program review visiting team’s report* (page 12) stated: *“We believe that the department status umbrella will provide significant benefits for the program and that it can be achieved with no budget impact except the funds needed for an additional faculty position.”* Note that the additional faculty (Dr. Wei Wu) was hired in 2013. Most recently, in 2013 ACCE site visit, the team listed *“Department Status as an area of UNDEVELOPED POTENTIAL.”*

The CM IAB (Industry Advisory Board) has recognized the significance of our proposal. As a result, they have agreed to provide partial financial support (up to \$100,000) toward the salary of the fifth full time tenure track faculty member (already hired) so that our program becomes qualified to seek departmental status.

*Please note that this was not an ACCE visiting team, it was Fresno State’s Academic Program Review

- C. The program of the proposed department will make an integral and significant contribution to the university's academic mission; it offers a viable degree; and that it advances the programmatic needs of the college/school and university.**

The CM program has made an integral and significant contribution to the University's academic mission: *"to power the New California through learning, scholarship, and engagement."* For example, service learning is an integral part of the CM program. There are three "S" designated courses within CM, each requiring students to engage a minimum of 20 hours (total of 60 hours for all three courses) in community service and experiential learning relating to the construction field. Our students have contributed to Habitat for Humanity, Grid Alternative, Lowell Neighborhood, Eldorado Park, and several projects facilitated by the NCCLF (Northern California Community Loan Fund), etc. Our award-winning Eco-Village project has received national recognition. Most recently, the Construction Employers' Association recognized Fresno State's achievements by presenting the CM program the prestigious Donald Warmby award of excellence.

- D. There exists strong evidence for the department's potential growth, vitality, and educational value.**

It is evident, from preceding brief overview that the CM program has made significant strides during the last five years and has been able to accomplish all the strategic goals that were set over five years ago. As we embark on the strategic planning for the next five years, the departmental status will play a pivotal role in the growth of our program, outreach and recruitment, marketing, research funding, internship, leadership and entrepreneurship, establishing new specialty areas to meet the future needs of the industry, and developing a graduate CM program and much more.

- E. The projected full-time equivalent faculty in the proposed department will be at least seven of whom at least five will be full-time probationary and tenured faculty.**

Following is the list of full time, tenured and tenure track faculty members in CM:

1. **Manoochehr Zoghi**, Ph.D., P.E., D.GE, F.ASCE
Professor, Coordinator
2. **Vivien Luo**, Ph.D., LEED AP BD+C, CM-BIM
Associate Professor
3. **Brad Hyatt**, P.E., LEED AP BD+C
Assistant Professor
4. **Lloyd Crask**, P.E., MBA
Assistant Professor
5. **Wei Wu**, Ph.D., CM-BIM, LEED AP BD+C, Green Globes Professional,
A.M.ASCE
Assistant Professor

Also, in any given semester, the CM hires 4 to 6 cadre of adjunct faculty to teach variety of CM courses and serve as mentors for student projects. The combination of full-time equivalent faculty exceeds seven (5 full time plus 2+ FTE adjuncts).

In conclusion, the CM Program is at a crossroads. It has made significant strides over the last five years and has developed numerous unique educational programs consistent with the missions of the Lyles College of Engineering and the University. Its future growth, however, will revolve around the change of status from the 'Program' to the 'Department.' There are great opportunities for the CM as a Department including increased enrollment (new freshmen and transfer students), enhanced articulation process, research funding, philanthropic opportunities, regional/national recognition, and much more improved image.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration. Please do not hesitate to let me know if you need additional information or clarifications. I look forward to hearing from you very soon.

Respectfully,