

Engineering college stiffens entrance requirements

By Cindy Coglianesi

The increase in enrollment, coupled with a stabilizing source of funds at the College of Engineering and Technology has resulted in a stiffening of academic requirements.

A committee of faculty members voted to raise some of the college's academic standards, particularly regarding the entrance requirements for freshmen and giving priority to the better students for available space in engineering and technology courses.

A change in the general policy will require all students to earn and maintain a current cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or better. Also after Jan. 1, 1979, students will not be allowed to repeat more than three courses previously failed in the college nor will they be allowed to repeat courses more than once except in special situations.

Pre-students

Change in the criteria for pre-engineering and pre-technology students state that any student with high school deficiencies, who does not meet entrance criteria or fails to meet the 2.0 GPA requirement will be classified as pre-engineering and pre-technology.

Composite scores from ACT and SAT's will also be taken into consideration for entrance criteria.

Engineering and Technology Dean George Hanna said

the requirement change was necessary because resources in the college are inadequate to serve the number of students entering the college.

"This will also give us the opportunity for raising total college standards," Hanna said.

Dr. Edward Wilson, chairman of the civil engineering department, said the committee's intent was to limit college enrollment.

Logical way

"It was decided that we would raise certain academic standards to discourage people," Wilson said. "The primary purpose (of the requirements) was to find some logical way to handle the increase of students."

Wilson said overall there has been a 40 percent increase in enrollment each year in the college. With 300 students currently enrolled in his program, Wilson said there are about 130 students who will be denied class entrance.

"This big increase started four years ago. There has been a 50 percent increase in this department over the last four years," Wilson said.

"There is no increase in resources and no more faculty than four years ago."

Professors underpaid

Dr. Gerald Smith, chairman of the engineering mechanics department, said he has fewer full-time faculty members than he did three years ago. He said there is a

problem with attracting good faculty to the university because an engineering graduate can make more money his first year out of school than the college can offer a professor with a Ph.D.

"The job market is so good for engineers that a graduate can make \$20,000 out of school," Smith said. "That is the problem with attracting young engineering faculty because graduates can make more money going out than a Ph.D. can make coming in."

"You're just not going to get any Ph.D.'s that are interested in going into the academic field," Smith said, adding that he does not know where the new faculty will come from when the older faculty retires.

22 percent increase

The chairman of the mechanical engineering department, Dr. Alexander Peters, expressed the same opinions as the other professors. Alexander said enrollment in his department has increased 22 percent from last year.

"If we are going to serve the students adequately we will have to hire more professors," Alexander said. "A student graduating with a B.S. can earn more than the present salary of a junior assistant professor."

Wilson and the other professors agreed that the increase in enrollment is probably a result of the growing job market for engineers.

Jobs easy to find

"Anyone who is graduating and is interested in employment gets a job," Wilson said.

Despite the agreement of the three professors and the passage of the new requirements, Wilson said he doesn't think the provisions are going to work. He said there is the possibility that students will challenge some of the requirements on a legal basis.

"I think we're going to find juniors who have GPA's of 2.4 or 2.5 who are going to get bumped out of class space because there are so many students with higher GPA's and there are no provisions to keep that student from being continually bumped," Wilson said.

He added that the requirements might be a hindrance to some of the upper-classmen in completing graduation requirements.

Zero reallocation

"The primary problem is that the college of engineering has had an increase in the reallocation of resources of zero."

Hanna said the college has been negotiating with the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Ned Hedges and the administration is aware of the money problems of the college.

"We keep asking," he said. "In all fairness to the university, the administration is cognizant of the problem and is trying to assist us through the reallocation of funds but that is a very slow process."

Though the faculty members say the problem is serious, some departments in the college are not yet facing the same problems.

Robert Zilly, chairman of the construction management department, said his department is not yet overcrowded but enrollment is approaching the 200-student limit that the department has set.

Rodney Soukup, chairman of the electrical engineering department, agreed that he has not yet experienced the same kind of overcrowding in his department.

"If the enrollment does go up, we will have a serious problem in this department also."

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