

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Board of Regents  
**From:** Board Office  
**Subject:** Merger of the Department of Industrial Education and Technology with the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, ISU  
**Date:** June 7, 2004

**Recommended Action:**

Approve Iowa State University's proposal to merge the Department of Industrial Education and Technology with the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering.

**Executive Summary:**

Result of a Reorganization      Iowa State University is requesting approval to merge the Department of Industrial Education and Technology (IEDT) within the College of Education, with the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (ABE) within the College of Agriculture, effective July 1, 2004. The merger will result in the complete integration of the current IEDT Department (faculty, staff, facilities, resources, and eventually, the degree programs) into the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering.

Plan for Reorganization      The initial discussions about reorganization, due to identified synergies and in order to create efficiencies, began in Spring 2003. A committee of faculty from both departments has worked diligently on a jointly developed vision, the mechanics of a merger, and on important details such as personnel, resources, and space. Following a very inclusive and rigorous process, a plan was developed and is hereby presented for approval.

Existing Programs Unchanged      All existing academic programs will remain unchanged initially and therefore students will not be affected. Planning for changes in curriculum offerings resulting from this merger will begin this Fall and will follow the usual and required approval process.

The faculty of both departments has approved the merger by a majority vote. The Deans of the respective colleges (Agriculture, Engineering-- ABE is jointly administered by Agriculture and Engineering, and Education), the Faculty Senate, and the University administration have endorsed the proposal.

---

Additional information on the proposed merger is attached.

---

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert J. Barak

Approved:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregory S. Nichols

**Proposal to Merge the Departments of Industrial Education and Technology  
and Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering  
May 2004**

The University continues to seek opportunities to focus on strategic priorities and to strengthen programs while at the same time addressing budget cuts. This proposal is an example of colleges working collaboratively to meet that challenge. The College of Education and the College of Agriculture have developed a plan to merge the Department of Industrial Education and Technology with the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering effective July 1, 2004.

**Rationale**

The undergraduate degree programs of Industrial Technology (ITEC) and Agricultural Systems Technology (AST) both focus on producing technical managers for business and industry. The two undergraduate degree programs share a common philosophy in not only educational goals but also in instructional methods. Both technology programs also include similar content and student outcomes. AST students currently take ITEC courses on a routine basis and several students have opted for dual degrees between the two majors.

Additionally, the faculty recognize that the addition of the ITEC graduate programs to the ABE department will allow graduate opportunities for AST students interested in pursuing advanced degrees at ISU and will allow ISU to address the current unmet demand for AST faculty.

**Review and Planning Process**

Initial discussions about the benefits of a departmental merger began early in 2003. An Ad Hoc Merger Committee was formed to include faculty from both departments. The committee explored several options for the restructuring of IEDT and ABE: a) accept individual IEDT faculty, their research program, current graduate students, and their current supporting resources into ABE on a case-by-case basis; b) move and integrate the M.S. and Ph.D. Industrial Technology graduate students into ABE, but not the undergraduate program; or c) move and integrate all Industrial Technology programs into ABE. The committee recommended that the latter two options be presented to the faculty and upper administration. The faculty voted in favor of the last option, recognizing that a comprehensive merger will benefit the departments, programs, students and faculty.

**Benefit**

The combined graduate faculty will increase the number of faculty working with ITEC graduate students and broaden the types of technology expertise available. As stated above, the addition of the ITEC graduate programs to the ABE department will allow graduate opportunities for AST students interested in pursuing advanced degrees at ISU and will address the current unmet demand for AST faculty. The influx of the graduate experience of the IEDT faculty would help establish a graduate program in AST and broaden the types of graduate educational opportunities in the ABE department, particularly in the area of scholarship in teaching and learning.

With the number of undergraduate majors in ITEC on the rise, and with the interest in and strength of the undergraduate AST program, the university expects to maximize its faculty resources through this merger. The faculty will continue to review the undergraduate programs and will suggest changes to them; accreditation of the programs will be maintained. The faculty will establish a target for the maximum number of undergraduate agricultural and industrial technology students and a mechanism for reaching that target.

The newly merged department will ensure the viability of the academic programs as they continue to grow in reputation.

### **Implementation**

The merger will become effective July 1, 2004. It will result in the integration of these Industrial Education and Technology resources with Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering:

- Seven faculty (five current faculty and two vacant faculty positions), one P&S undergraduate advisor, 1.75 Merit (clerical) positions
- All physical spaces, laboratories, and equipment
- Current operating budget (~\$50,000)
- Graduate Assistant lines
- All Foundation accounts (eight endowed scholarships plus \$100,000)
- All sponsored funding

Review of the curriculum will begin in Fall 2004. Board approval of the modified undergraduate and graduate curriculum will be requested at a later date as the faculty complete their review and planning.