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## Educational Policies Committee Program Proposal, College of Engineering, April 1, 2016

Utah State University

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**Institution Submitting Request:** Utah State University  
**Proposed Title:** Master of Science in Electrical Engineering  
**Currently Approved Title:** Master of Science in Electrical Engineering  
**School or Division or Location:** College of Engineering  
**Department(s) or Area(s) Location:** Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering  
**Recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code<sup>1</sup> (for new programs):** NA  
**Current Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code (for existing programs):** 14.1001  
**Proposed Beginning Date (for new programs):** NA  
**Institutional Board of Trustees' Approval Date:** 01/08/2016

**Proposal Type (check all that apply):**

Regents' General Consent Calendar Items		
<i>R401-5 OCHE Review and Recommendation; Approval on General Consent Calendar</i>		
SECTION NO.		ITEM
5.1.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minor*
5.1.2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Emphasis*
5.2.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	(CER P) Certificate of Proficiency*
5.2.3	<input type="checkbox"/>	(GCR) Graduate Certificate*
5.4.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Administrative Unit
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Administrative Unit Transfer
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Administrative Unit Restructure
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Administrative Unit Consolidation
5.4.2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conditional Three-Year Approval for New Centers, Institutes, or Bureaus
5.4.3	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Center
	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Institute
	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Bureau
5.5.1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Out-of-Service Area Delivery of Programs
5.5.2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Transfer
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Restructure
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Consolidation
5.5.3	<input type="checkbox"/>	Name Change of Existing Programs
5.5.4	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Discontinuation
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Program Suspension
5.5.5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reinstatement of Previously Suspended Program
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Reinstatement of Previously Suspended Administrative Unit

\*Requires "Section V: Program Curriculum" of Abbreviated Template

**Chief Academic Officer (or Designee) Signature:**

I certify that all required institutional approvals have been obtained prior to submitting this request to the Office of the Commissioner.

**Signature**

**Date:** 01/08/2016

**Printed Name:** Laurens H. Smith, Jr.

<sup>1</sup> CIP codes must be recommended by the submitting institution. For CIP code classifications, please see <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/Default.aspx?y=55>.

**Utah State University**  
**Master of Science in Electrical Engineering**  
**08/18/2015**

**Section I: Request**

The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering requests that all of the Emphases in the current Master of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering (MSEE) be removed. Since Electrical Engineering is a discipline which is changing quickly, with new sub-disciplines added and obsoleted often, it is impractical to maintain a list of Emphases to which a student must be assigned. In addition, modern study in this field requires a knowledge of several sub-disciplines. The Departments is currently adequately preparing students with existing course offerings, and no instructional activities in the Department will be affected.

**Section II: Need**

The current list of emphases requires students to declare an area of study. Many of the students are taking classes in several sub-disciplines, and find it difficult to determine a single emphasis to formally select. Also, as the faculty are added to the Department, their research interests and expertise result in changes in curriculum and course offerings which are not reflected in a fixed set of emphases.

A review of the MSEE programs in the State of Utah, located at the University of Utah and at Brigham Young University, indicate that both programs do not include formal emphases. In addition, feedback from the students indicate that employers are not influenced by a formal emphasis noted on the degree, but by the breadth of classes the student has taken.

**Section III: Institutional Impact**

None.

**Section IV: Finances**

No costs are anticipated by this change.

**Section V: Program Curriculum**

No program curriculum will be changed.