

ACTION ITEM #1

Discontinue the Bachelor of Science in Construction Engineering Degree on the WSU Pullman Campus (T. Chris Riley-Tillman)

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

SUBJECT: Discontinue the Bachelor of Science in Construction Engineering Degree on the WSU Pullman Campus

PROPOSED: That the Board of Regents discontinue the Bachelor of Science in Construction Engineering Degree on the WSU Pullman Campus

SUBMITTED BY: T. Chris Riley-Tillman, Provost and Executive Vice President

SUPPORTING INFORMATION: The Voiland College of Engineering and Architecture (VCEA) proposes to discontinue the Bachelor of Science in Construction Engineering Degree on the WSU Pullman campus.

The decision to discontinue the Bachelor of Science in Construction Engineering (BS ConE) program is due to a combination of factors, including declining enrollment, resource allocation, and the evolving nature of the construction engineering field. VCEA has carefully evaluated these factors and believes that it is in the best interest of WSU students to reallocate resources and offer programs that better support current industry demands. Below please find an elaboration on several key factors.

- **Low Enrollment:** Over the past several years, VCEA has seen a significant decline in the number of students enrolling in the BS ConE degree program. Despite the college's best efforts to promote the program and offer scholarships and incentives, the demand for this particular degree has steadily decreased.
- **Resource Allocation:** In order to sustain a successful degree program, it is critical to allocate significant resources to support expert faculty, world-class facilities, and dedicated funding. Due to the modest number of students enrolled in the Construction Engineering program, VCEA had to make difficult choices about how to allocate limited resources. VCEA's priority is to maintain the high quality of education in the well-established civil and environmental engineering and construction management programs.
- **Evolving Industry Trends:** The field of construction engineering has been undergoing rapid changes in recent years, with a growing

emphasis on sustainability, technology integration, and project management. With limited resources to keep up with these evolving industry trends, it is increasingly challenging to sustain a program that allows WSU graduates to continue to be competitive in the job market.

- **Career Opportunities:** VCEA understands that many of WSU's Construction Engineering students chose this program with the expectation of pursuing rewarding careers in the field. However, the job market for graduates in this program has become increasingly competitive, and VCEA believes that by discontinuing the program, it can better focus on providing WSU students in this program with alternative opportunities that better support current industry demands.

VCEA currently has a total of 35 students in the BS ConE program. Of these, 31 students have been admitted to the major, and 4 students have academic interest in the program.

The BS ConE program is committed to supporting its current Construction Engineering students during this transition period. Students currently enrolled in the program will be advised to complete their requirements in the Construction Engineering degree program. VCEA will work closely with each student to develop individualized academic plans that allow them to complete their degree requirements in a timely manner. Additionally, VCEA will provide guidance and resources to help them explore alternative degree programs that align with their career goals and interests.

This proposal was reviewed carefully and has support from the Provost's Office. This recommendation was recommended by the Faculty Senate on February 27, 2025. The Bachelor of Science Construction Engineering degree discontinuation proposal for the WSU Pullman campus is available upon request.

Attachment: Proposal to Discontinue a Degree Program