

Energy Engineering BS Degree

Department of Mechanical Engineering
Purdue School of Engineering and
Technology

Jie Chen, PhD

Professor and Chair

A Presentation to DIAC

Background

- “Energy Economy” is predicted to be dominant in next few decades.
- Significant federal funding has been and will be devoted to renewable energy research and technology development.
- Commercialization is the goal, meaning the energy sector will grow.
- The needs of engineers with training in energy engineering will be in demand.

Why us?

- Current BS programs in energy engineering are not research-based. The curriculum covers broad topics without depth.
- IUPUI has the research infrastructure (LCRE). It creates the depth and will provide frontier knowledge to students.
- Both ME and ECE programs can offer fundamental engineering courses required for energy engineering.
- The curriculum will provide bridge for students to energy related graduate programs.
- There are many energy related companies in Indiana, which provide internship and co-op opportunities and guidance to the new degree program.

Current Status

- LCRE has been supported by \$5M external fund for renewable energy research. Research activities are increasing.
- IUPUI has created partnership with energy related companies, such as Earth Solar, AlgaeWheel, Xylanco, Horizon Wind Energy, I-Power Energy Systems, Tawas, Rolls-Royce, Cummins, IPL, Midwest ISO, and Delphi through E&T and LCRE. Collaborative research with national labs has been established.
- A proposal for the new degree has been developed.
- The proposal has been endorsed by the campus administration, both ME and ECE dept., and ME IAB.

Curriculum

- Science and Math courses 30 cr.
- Engineering Fundamentals (ME and ECE) 44 cr.
- Energy Engineering courses 28 cr.
- Technical Electives 6 cr.
- General Education 21 cr.

Total

129 cr.

Resources Needed

- Six new faculty in the following six areas: solar energy, wind energy, fuel cell, bio-fuel, power electronics, and material engineering
- Research lab space: 2,500 s.f.
- Teaching lab space: 1,000 s.f.
- New faculty offices
- Startup fund
- Equipment budget

Critical Path for Approval

