Commendations to:

1. The program for recruiting transfer and international students who represent diverse cultural backgrounds.
2. The program for providing students with a broad knowledge of the discipline and preparing them for productive careers.
3. The faculty for being highly qualified, dedicated, scholarly and involved with industry.
4. The Department for supporting curriculum that is well-defined for each of the seven areas of concentration.
5. The program for supporting, advising and monitoring of students at graduate levels.
6. The graduate coordinator for playing an important role in the initial advising of students as well as guiding and monitoring them through the degree requirements.
7. The Department’s website for being well designed and informative.
8. The University, College and Department for the laboratory facilities, computer facilities, interactive classrooms, technical support, IT support and the open laboratory schedules.
3. The College, Department and program consider a graduate level design laboratory. With the increasing number of graduate students and the majority of them selecting the project or thesis option, there is a need for this facility.

4. The program reconsider curriculum decisions on the number of units required for international students to be considered as full-time students, given the limits set forth by federal law. This review may allow for better retention of these students and more effective progress towards the degree by them as well.

Understanding: Not in our power to alter federal law from 8 units.

5. The College reconsiders the current location of the Power Laboratory. The space may provide a hazard to student health and well-being. A larger area and more equipment would reduce crowded conditions and provide a safer environment for learning.

Understanding: A large portion of power lab has been relocated to JD1590, the microwave lab, which had enough room for set-up.

6. The Department and program reorganize degree requirements to limit the possibility that students can graduate with only one or two 600-level courses. While students are advised not to do this, there is no policy to stop a student from choosing to avoid such a curricular pathway. Two factors may assist in this discussion: Digital might undergo reconsideration of allowing up to nine (9) units of 500-level courses applied to the degree.

Understanding: This applies only to digital computer engineering concentration. Department believes this is appropriate for this concentration.
All of these serve to prepare students to meet the current technology needs and provide for success in their academic careers.

9. The University, College, Department and program for providing sufficient financial support and the overall management of the resources.

10. The program for its well-defined Program Educational Objectives (PEOs) and Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs). The assessment process is well established and has resulted in programmatic and curricular modifications and improvements.

11. The program and faculty for supporting students in selecting the project option for graduate studies. About 90% of students choose the graduate project option as their culminating experience, a pattern that requires additional time and effort on the part of faculty.

Recommendations that:

1. The program carefully consider the decision to offer a completely on-line degree.

   Completely on-line MS programs (without interactive lectures) are more suited for degrees such as MS in Software Engineering or Environmental Engineering. Interactive on-line programs are more applicable to MSEE and/or MSCompE degrees. If the necessary equipment and computer software are made available in the Department, the idea could be pretested by offering select courses on-line.

2. The Department review historical data in planning course offerings. Students are concerned about the frequency and periodicity of certain courses. Scheduling courses over a longer term, a two-year schedule for example, may assist in offering solutions since they could plan their choices with some sense of assurance.

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