Recommendation of the Faculty of the College of Engineering and Applied Science to change the name of the "Department of Mechanics" to the "Department of Civil Engineering".

Rationale:

Last year the College changed its option structure and decided to change from a Structural Engineering option plus a number of civil engineering related programs carried under the rubric of Engineering Science to a formal civil engineering program. This action was approved by all appropriate channels in the University and confirmed by Central Administration.

To implement this program, the College considers it desirable that the name of the department primarily concerned with instruction in Civil Engineering also have this reflected in its name. The old name, Mechanics, is not descriptive of the primary current mission of the department; as a matter of fact, a separate mechanics option has been discontinued. The name change will also improve our communications with the outside world—potential students, high school counselors, professional groups as well as potential employers who have always been confused by our departmental names.

With one or two exceptions, all faculty members whose teaching or research functions and interests relate to Civil Engineering are presently in the Mechanics Department. To accommodate others who would like to affiliate themselves with Civil Engineering, the departmental executive committee has formally voted to extend an invitation to those faculty members to join the department if they so choose. Under these circumstances, I believe that the interests and wishes of all current members of the faculty are fully protected.

The College faces accreditation of its engineering programs next year, including accreditation of Civil Engineering. The approval of the name change would assist us in the accreditation process since the proposed new name will more accurately reflect the actual organization and the program direction.

Fred Landis, Dean
College of Engineering and Applied Science