TO BE ADOPTED:

The Riverside Division of the Academic Senate approves the proposal for M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Mechanical Engineering as described in the attached documents received in the Graduate Division on October 1, 2000.

JUSTIFICATION

The graduate programs in Mechanical Engineering will be conducted by the Mechanical Engineering Faculty appointed in the College of Engineering as well as cooperating faculty in Chemical & Environmental Engineering, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, Soil and Environmental Sciences, and Physics. The program, consisting of advanced course work and independent research activities, will equip graduates with the training and education required to enter careers in industry, government, and academia. In addition to obtaining a broad knowledge of Mechanical Engineering, students will be expected to develop in-depth understanding of their chosen area of specialization. By taking courses from an array of sub-fields, graduates will be well-positioned to successfully carry out multidisciplinary responsibilities in their chosen profession. The program will fill a current void in the Riverside/San Bernardino area, commonly called the Inland Empire. The region lacks a school that can offer Mechanical Engineering education and research at the Ph.D. level. The rationale for initiating a College of Engineering at UC Riverside was based on regional demographics and the predicted need for engineers in the rapidly growing Inland Empire. The program will help maintain and enhance the research productivity of the Mechanical Engineering faculty which will in turn enable the program to attract and retain top students and faculty. In addition, the program will help strengthen and expand important research areas in the UC system and help meet the technology needs and demands of regional and national economic development.

The proposal has been examined and approved by the following committees of the Academic Senate: Graduate Council, Planning and Budget, Educational Policy, and Library “in principle” with a request that guaranteed future funding adequate to support continued acquisitions for a professional program be addressed at a higher level. The proposal has the approval and support of the Dean of the College of Engineering.

Michael E. Adams, Chair
Graduate Council

Enclosures: Program Proposal (including memos of support)
Memos from the above mentioned Academic Senate committees