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**Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee  
to Eliminate a Unit**

1. **CURRENT UNIT NAME:** Institute for Competitive Manufacturing (ICM) in Mechanical & Industrial Engineering n/k/a Mechanical Science & Engineering (MechSE)
2. **SPONSOR NAME:** Anthony Jacobi, Department Head, Mechanical & Industrial Engineering n/k/a Mechanical Science & Engineering (MechSE)
3. **SPONSOR EMAIL:** a-jacobi@illinois.edu
4. **COLLEGE CONTACT** (for units housed within a College): The Grainger College of Engineering (GCOE), Philippe Geubelle, Executive Associate Dean
5. **COLLEGE CONTACT EMAIL:** geubelle@illinois.edu
6. **TITLE OF PROPOSAL:** Proposal to Eliminate the Institute for Competitive Manufacturing (ICM) in Mechanical & Industrial Engineering n/k/a Mechanical Science & Engineering (MechSE)
7. **DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE:** Fall 2023
8. **JUSTIFICATION:** There has been no activity in the ICM for roughly two decades, since the 2003 retirement of the last Executive Director, Professor Clark Bullard.
9. **BUDGETARY, FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENT IMPLICATIONS:**
  - A. What are the budgetary implications? None.
  - B. Will budget lines be transferred? N/A
  - C. What are the implications for faculty and staff in the unit? None.
  - D. Where will faculty/staff/students in the current unit be housed? N/A
  - E. What are the anticipated effects on course enrollment in other units? Please document discussions with representatives of those units.  
There has not been activity in ICM for 20 years, there will thus be no anticipated effect on course enrollment.
  - F. What is the impact on physical teaching spaces, labs, equipment, etc.? None.
  - G. If students are enrolled in programs within this unit, how will advising be handled? N/A

**10. SUMMARY OF PROCESS:****A. Process to come to this decision.**

- i. The MechSE head (Anthony Jacobi) discussed the Institute with retired faculty formerly involved in the Institute and currently active MechSE faculty in the germane technical disciplines. All supported elimination.
- ii. All 89 MechSE faculty and affiliates were invited to comment on the potential elimination. Only two comments were received, both advocating for elimination.
- iii. The MechSE Advisory Committee (elected faculty representatives) was consulted and, after discussion, voted unanimously in favor of elimination (5-0-0, one member absent).
- iv. By a secret, written ballot, the tenure-system faculty of MechSE voted unanimously to eliminate the Institute, 25-0-0. MechSE Bylaws give all tenure-system faculty voting rights and set the quorum at 40% of the faculty. The total number of tenure-system faculty is 47; thus, with 53% of our faculty casting a ballot, we met the quorum requirement.
- v. By a secret, written ballot, the tenure-system faculty of the Grainger College of Engineering voted to eliminate the Institute, 106-1-8. The College Bylaws give all tenure-system faculty voting rights and set the quorum at 10% of the faculty. The total number of tenure-system faculty is 492; thus, with 23% of college faculty casting a ballot, we met the quorum requirement.

**B. Process of the unit's faculty approval.**

No faculty have been involved with the institute for roughly 20 years. However, as described above, roughly 500 faculty have been consulted in the home unit and college, and there is overwhelming faculty support or elimination.

**C. Public hearing synopsis.**

A public hearing was held by the Senate Education Policy Committee on September 11, 2023. Notice of this public hearing was published through the Illinois Faculty/Staff Notices September 3, 2023 (Eweek) online bulletin. There were no comments or questions from the guests in attendance. See attached announcement and minutes.

**D. Process to move forward with the elimination.**

Submit the proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee, as soon as possible.

**11. GOVERNANCE PROCESS:** (List the governance levels supporting this proposal in the unit and/or College and the votes taken at each level (see [Statues, Article VIII, Section IV](#) and [Senate Bylaws, Part D., Section 8. C](#)):)

See response to question 10 above.

**12. ADDENDUM** (List all addenda for this proposal that will be attached to this proposal, e.g. public hearing announcements and meeting minutes, FAQ public document, letters of support, University Library Impact Letter, other written communication, etc.): See attached announcement and minutes of the public hearing.**13. STATEMENT FOR THE ACADEMIC CATALOG** (If there is text in the Academic Catalog, <http://catalog.illinois.edu/>, that will need to be updated as a result of this request, please list the URL(s) of the page(s) and the text to update.): None.



**From:** [Jacobi, Anthony M](#)  
**To:** [Miller, Nolan H](#)  
**Cc:** [Moorhouse, Linda](#); [Lehman, Barbara J](#); [Brunson, Shea E](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Institute for Competitive Manufacturing elimination  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 5, 2023 12:04:32 PM  
**Attachments:** [Proposal to eliminate the Institute for Competitive Manufacturing.msg](#)  
[image001.png](#)

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Hi Nolan,

I consulted informally, one-on-one with faculty in my department engaged in manufacturing-related research, and those retired faculty formerly associated with the Institute for Competitive Manufacturing (ICM), all of whom favored eliminating the ICM.

Subsequently, I sent the attached email to 89 members of the MechSE faculty, including all active specialized and tenure-system faculty, along with Affiliate faculty (zero-time) from across the Grainger College of Engineering, and emeritus faculty, seeking input on the proposed elimination of the ICM. I received only two replies, both of which favored elimination.

On Thursday, August 31, I met with the MechSE Advisory Committee, which per our Bylaws consists of 2 assistant professors, 2 associate professors, and 2 professors, elected by the faculty to advise me. The Advisory Committee voted unanimously 5-0-0 (one member absent) in favor of eliminating the ICM.

Please let me know if I can do anything else to support the work of the Education Policy Committee on this matter.

Regards,  
Tony

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**From:** [Jacobi, Anthony M](#)  
**To:** [Jacobi, Anthony M](#)  
**Cc:** [Brunson, Shea E](#); [Seymour, Rebecca Anne](#)  
**Subject:** Proposal to eliminate the Institute for Competitive Manufacturing  
**Date:** Friday, August 18, 2023 3:27:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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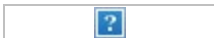
Colleagues,

With approval from the IBHE, the Institute for Competitive Manufacturing was formed in Mechanical and Industrial Engineering (now MechSE) by then head Tad Addy, with Professor Dick DeVor serving as Executive Director. The most recent Executive Director was Clark Bullard; however, Clark retired two decades ago and the institute has been inactive for decades.

We are considering the elimination of this institute. Let me know by the end of next week if you have input to provide on this proposed elimination.

Regards,

Tony



**Anthony M. Jacobi**

Head, Mechanical Science and Engineering  
Richard W. Kritzer Distinguished Professor  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
1206 W. Green Street / Urbana, IL 61801  
217-333-4108

**From:** [Miller, Nolan H](#)  
**To:** [Lehman, Barbara J](#)  
**Cc:** [Jacobi, Anthony M](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Institute for Competitive Manufacturing elimination  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 10:40:54 AM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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Hi Barb,

Please attach the email below to the proposal to eliminate the institute for competitive manufacturing.

Thanks,

Nolan



**NOLAN H MILLER**

*Daniel and Cynthia Mah Helle Professor in Finance* | Department of Finance  
*Director, Center for Business and Public Policy*  
*Chair, Senate Committee on Education Policy*  
Gies College of Business | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
217.244.2847 | [nmiller@illinois.edu](mailto:nmiller@illinois.edu) | <http://www.business.illinois.edu/nmiller>

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**From:** Jacobi, Anthony M <a-jacobi@illinois.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 15, 2023 8:36 AM  
**To:** Miller, Nolan H <nsmiller@illinois.edu>; Geubelle, Philippe <geubelle@illinois.edu>  
**Cc:** Newell, Brooke <bsnewell@illinois.edu>; Brunson, Shea E <seb@illinois.edu>  
**Subject:** RE: Institute for Competitive Manufacturing elimination

Dear Nolan,

Mechanical Science and Engineering has completed our secret, written vote regarding the elimination of the Institute for Competitive Manufacturing. Our Bylaws set the quorum at 40% of the faculty with voting rights. With 53% of our faculty casting a ballot, there is a unanimous vote in favor of eliminating the Institute for Competitive Manufacturing.

The Grainger College of Engineering will hold a vote at a faculty meeting today, and I expect Philippe Geubelle's office will inform you of the outcome.

Thank you for guidance on this matter.

Regards,  
Tony



**Anthony M. Jacobi**

Head, Mechanical Science and Engineering  
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