

Response of the Department of Mechanical Engineering to the

Final Report of the Review Committee University of Washington Academic Program Review

Date of this response: 22 May 2017

The report of the committee was made available to all our immediate stakeholders for comment. Based on their response to this, we wish to raise the following points:

1. We wish to thank the committee for the effort they put into their review of our department. They carefully examined our Self Study, but they also went well beyond this in interviews with faculty in the various research areas and in the various ranks, as well as with staff, graduate students and undergraduates. They clearly were diligent and complete in their examination, and we truly appreciate their efforts.
2. We agree with their findings and conclusions, including their suggested areas of improvement. They crystalized several ongoing issues and initiatives. Some of these we are currently addressing, and some are to be considered for future initiatives.
3. The committee recommended considering a 5-year combined BSME/MSME program. One faculty member mentioned that this must be done carefully to avoid compromising the eligibility of students for NSF fellowships if they later enter the PhD program.