The Graduate Council approved the College of Engineering, Department of Electrical Engineering request to change the name of the department to the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.
MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. John R. Giardino
Dean of Graduate Studies

FROM: John M. Niedzwiecki
Executive Associate Dean and
R.P. Gregory '32 Chair Professor

SUBJECT: Nonsubstantive Administrative Change Request

The Department of Electrical Engineering has submitted a request to change the name of the department to the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. This proposal has been reviewed by our College of Engineering Graduate Instruction Committee, and their approval is reflected in the attached memorandum from Dr. N.K. Anand, Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs.

I am submitting this proposal for consideration by the University’s Graduate Council. Please contact me if you have questions or need additional information.

Attachments
MEMORANDUM

TO: Ms. Linda Lacey
    Director of Support Services

FROM: John M. Niedzwecki
    Executive Associate Dean and
    R.P. Gregory ’32 Chair Professor

SUBJECT: Nonsubstantive Administrative Change Request

The Department of Electrical Engineering has submitted a request to change the name of the department to the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. This proposal has been reviewed by our College of Engineering Undergraduate Advisors Committee, and their approval is reflected in the attached memorandum from Dr. Jo W. Howze, Associate Dean for Academic Programs.

I am submitting this proposal for consideration by the University Curriculum Committee. Please contact me if you have questions or need additional information.

Attachments
September 6, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: G. Kemble Bennett
Vice Chancellor & Dean of Engineering

THROUGH: John Niedzwecki
Associate Vice Chancellor & Executive Associate Dean

FROM: Chanan Singh
Regents Professor & Department Head

SUBJECT: Department of Electrical Engineering Name Change

As you know the Department of Electrical Engineering intends to change its name to the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering to more accurately reflect the mission and activities of the department. This will also be consistent with the national trend. Although you had given us permission verbally, we are now formally requesting your permission to proceed with the process.

Attached is the document outlining rationale for name change. It was sent for review to Dr. Valerie Taylor and we have incorporated the changes suggested by her regarding the position of the Department of Computer Science on the issue of name change.

An early response from you will be appreciated.

Thank you for your support.
Memo

Date: December 9, 2004
To: Dr. G. Kemble Bennett, Dean of Engineering
Cc: Dr. J. Howze, Associate Dean for Academic Programs
From: Dr. N. K. Anand, Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs
RE: ELEN Departmental Name Change

On December 8, 2004, the Graduate Instruction Committee for the College of Engineering voted unanimously to recommend approval of the request by the Department of Electrical Engineering to change their name to the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Please feel free to contact me if you should require additional information.

tw
MEMORANDUM

TO:        Dr. G. Kemble Bennett
           Dean of Engineering

FROM:      Dr. Jo W. Howzer
           Associate Dean for Academic Programs

SUBJECT:   ELEN Departmental Name Change

On December 14th, 2004, the members of the Undergraduate Advisors Committee voted in favor of the request by the Department of Electrical Engineering to change their name to the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. The vote was unanimous in favor of the name change.

Please feel free to contact me should you require additional information.

xc:        John Niedzwecki
           Cindy Havner
MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Chanan Singh  
Professor and Head, Regents Professor and Runyon Professor, Electrical Engineering

From: Dr. Valerie E. Taylor  
Royce E. Wisenbaker Professor and Head

Subject: Department of Electrical Engineering Name Change

The Department of Computer Science has no objections to the proposed Department of Electrical Engineering name change to the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. We, however, reserve the option to change our name in the future. We look forward to continuing to jointly administer the Computer Engineering program.

VT:se
Nonsubstantive Administrative Change Request
Title Page Model

NAME OF INSTITUTION  Department of Electrical Engineering, Texas A&M University

CHANGE REQUEST  Request changing the name to Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Display how administrative unit(s) and program(s) would appear on the Coordinating Board program inventory; include Texas CIP code designation(s). Administrative Unit codes will be supplied.

Electrical, Electronics and Communications Engineering  BS  MS  PHD  14.1001.00
Computer Engineering  BS  MS  PhD  14.0901.00

Proposed date for implementation of administrative change  September 2005

Person to be contacted for further information about administrative change(s):

Name:  Prof. Chanan Singh  Title:  Department Head
Phone:  (979)  845.7589  FAX:  (979)458-1064

Signatures:

________________________________________  __________________________
Campus Chief Executive Officer  Date

________________________________________  __________________________
System Chief Executive Officer  (As appropriate)  Date

Governing Board approval date:  __________________________
PROPOSED NONSUBSTANTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING

1. Change Requested:

   The Department of Electrical Engineering requests to change the name of the department to the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. This requested name change does not affect existing resources nor do they require additional resources; therefore the changes are submitted as a non-substantive request. In addition, the changes do not require changes in the department's role and mission, but rather are expected to more accurately reflect the current mission of the department.

2. Rationale:

   Electrical engineering departments across the nation, including Texas A&M University, have been offering degrees in Computer engineering. Because of the significant growth in the Computer engineering programs, many of the departments across the nation have changed their names to Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering to more accurately reflect their missions. So much so that the Association of Department Heads has changed its name from NEEDHA (National Electrical Engineering Department Head Association) to ECEDHA (Electrical and Computer Engineering Department Head Association). By some estimates, by 2000, over 60% of Carnegie one institutions have changed their names to Department of Electrical and Computer engineering.

   At present, Department of Electrical Engineering offers B.S., M.S., and Ph.D., degrees in both Electrical engineering and Computer Engineering. At Texas A&M University, the Computer Engineering program is jointly administered by the departments of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering. Input from the faculty of the Department of Electrical Engineering was sought on the subject of name change. The department of Electrical Engineering faculty feel it is necessary for the department's name to more accurately reflect its current mission and hence request the change the name to Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. The Department of Computer Science has been informed of this pending request of change of name. The faculty of Computer Science have deliberated and have concluded that (a) they do not object to Electrical Engineering going forward with the name change at this time, (b) they will retain the current name of Department of Computer Science and (c) they reserve the option to change their name in the future.
The following information is being provided to give a clear picture of the current size of the Computer engineering program within the Department of Electrical engineering. Approximately 40% of the student body in the department is receiving the degree of Computer engineering. The computer engineering and associated faculty that teach computer engineering classes and conduct research roughly constitute 30% of the Department of Electrical Engineering’s faculty. The annual program expenditures for computer engineering roughly constitute 35% of the Department of Electrical Engineering.

As most departments across the nation change their names to Departments of Electrical and Computer Engineering, changing our name has become imperative for a number of other reasons: (a) The current name gives the appearance of computer engineering not being a significant component of the department and this impacts perception of our programs and national rankings, (b) The appearance of computer engineering possibly not being a significant component of the department makes it harder attracting and hiring of high quality faculty, (c) The name change will reflect the mission of the department more accurately to the students.

3. Effects on the Administrative Unit and on the Institution:

A number of beneficial impacts are expected as a result of the name change. First, the mission of the department will be more accurately reflected by the name change. We anticipate that the name change will positively impact our national reputation and rankings as the changed name will reflect our current broader research and teaching programs. We anticipate attracting more qualified faculty for hiring purposes. We anticipate that the name change will be positively seen by students and we anticipate more good will from the graduates of the computer engineering program.

4. Implications for Classes, Personnel, Facilities and Equipment:

The proposed name change will have no effect on classes taught, distribution of personnel, availability of facilities, or availability of equipment.

5. Cost Savings:

The proposed name change will not incur any additional costs to the unit except minimal costs for changes in stationary, signage and publication. No cost savings will be generated by the change.