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April 25, 2007

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### Approval of New Bachelor of Science Degree in Geomatics Engineering

The Bachelor of Science degree in Geomatics Engineering at FAU will provide students with the new professional skills required of today's geospatial specialist. Geomatics is a relatively new idiom that is replacing the more traditional terms of surveying and mapping. Geomatics describes the new and emerging science and technology that brings together all forms of geospatial data activities: collection, processing, analysis, design, plotting and presentation.

This proposal stems from the strong interest and support of the civil engineering, construction, and land surveying firms and professionals in south Florida. This interest stems from the high levels of development and construction in this area, a shortage of trained professionals in geomatics engineering, and a change in Florida Statutes requiring individuals seeking licensure as professional land surveyors to be graduates of four-year baccalaureate programs in the discipline. There are currently no such academic programs in south Florida.

Program faculty and staff will be headquartered at the FAU Treasure Coast campus in Port St. Lucie but the program will be delivered throughout south Florida. While the program will initially be administered by a Director reporting to the Dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science, it is expected that the program eventually will become part of the Department of Civil Engineering.

Fall 2007

The Office of the Provost and the College of Engineering and Computer Science have each committed funds for faculty and staff salaries and some operational expenses. It is anticipated that there will be support from business and industry, private contributions, and contributions in kind once the program is approved.

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Supporting Documentation:  
Presented by: Dean Karl Stevens

Executive Summary of Degree  
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New Degree Proposal  
Bachelor of Science in Geomatics Engineering  
Dr. Karl K. Stevens, Dean  
April, 2007

*Geomatics Engineering relates to the traditional tasks of surveying and mapping, as practiced in a digital world. This program brings together all forms of geospatial data activities: collection, processing, analysis, design, plotting and presentation.*

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This proposal stems from the strong interest and support of the civil engineering, construction, and land surveying firms and professionals in south Florida. Their exceptionally high levels of interest and concern arise from the extensive development and construction activities in the area, from the shortage of trained professionals in Geomatics Engineering, and from a 2005 change in Florida Statutes requiring that individuals seeking licensure in Florida as professional land surveyors be graduates of a four year baccalaureate program in the discipline. There being no such academic programs in south Florida, the professional community turned to the FAU College of Engineering & Computer Science for assistance.

The program proposed leads to a Bachelor of Science degree in Geomatics Engineering, unique in the Southeastern United States. The 120 semester credit curriculum is consistent with all State program requirements and is designed to meet the accreditation requirements of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET). ABET accreditation will ensure that program graduates can seek professional registration as land surveyors anywhere in the United States. The proposed implementation date is July 1, 2007, with the first students accepted for the Fall 2007 semester.

The B.S. degree in Geomatics Engineering is included in the  
FAU List

September, 2006. The program is consistent with the Vision, Mission, and Goals statements adopted by the faculty of the College of Engineering & Computer Science in 1995 and it is supportive of Goals 1-4 of the FAU Strategic Plan.

: There is high need to “take this program to the students”, as opposed to “bringing the students to the program”. Program faculty and staff will be headquartered at the FAU Treasure Coast campus in Port St. Lucie, but the program will be delivered throughout south Florida. Many potential students are working professionals with two year degrees seeking to upgrade their professional skills, unable to attend classes during normal working hours.

Engineering Career Development, financial management and accounting services, and assistance with development and fundraising activities.

Additional resources are needed for faculty and staff, office equipment and supplies, promotional and advertising efforts, specialized laboratory and instructional equipment and software, and operating expenses. The program budget calls for \$265,272 in new funding for the first program year. This funding will come from existing College carry forward monies, an allocation from the Provost, and from private and corporate contributions. A private contribution of \$25,000 in support of the program already has been received and a major donation of equipment and services to develop, implement, and maintain the GENIE program is under discussion.