Proposal for Discontinuation of the Nuclear Engineering Minor
November 30, 2018

1. **Name of administrator:** Dr. Cris Schwartz, Associate Chair for Undergraduate Studies, Department of Mechanical Engineering, cris1@iastate.edu

2. **Name of program:** Nuclear Engineering Minor

3. **Administering program:** Department of Mechanical Engineering

4. **Rationale for discontinuation:** The coordinator of the minor, who instructs all but one of the Nuc E courses and is the only member of our faculty with expertise in the field, is Dr. Greg Maxwell. Dr. Maxwell is completing his phased retirement and will no longer be an ISU employee after Spring semester of 2019. Over the past number of years there has been a relatively low number of enrolled students in the minor and little interest expressed by incoming students to complete the minor program. With the departure of Dr. Maxwell, the ME department no longer has a sufficient number of faculty with interest, expertise or availability to continue teaching the courses. Other departments in the College of Engineering were made aware of the eventual discontinuation of the minor and invited to take over its administration and teaching if they found it valuable. No other departments expressed strong interest in doing so. The ME department will no longer be able to offer Nuc E courses after Spring 2019.

5. **Availability of similar programs:** There is no Nuclear Engineering major or minor program at other Regents institutions. Geographically, the nearest similar program is the strong program at Kansas State University which still possesses a research nuclear reactor.

6. **Enrollment Data:** Here are the enrollments for the most recent years:
   a. Academic year beginning fall 2018 – 14 students
   b. 2017 – 18 students
   c. 2016 – 16 students
   d. 2015 – 16 students
   e. 2014 – 20 students

7. **Anticipated Student Impact:** Of the 15 students currently in the minor, 10 will have completed all of the necessary coursework by Spring 19. The remaining 5 students have either not yet begun the coursework or are not currently enrolled as students at ISU. The upcoming cessation of Nuc E course offerings has been communicated to all students in the minor as well as their academic advisers. All students who have completed a significant amount of the coursework are being accommodated by continuing to offer courses in Spring 19 to allow them to finish. There is no indication that any of the remaining students will transfer to other programs nor leave ISU. Students who have taken Nuc E courses but do not complete the minor can apply all Nuc E courses to the Energy Systems minor if desired.

8. **Costs of accommodation:** As stated above, ME will be able to offer the necessary Nuc E courses in Spring 19 which will allow the majority of students to finish. Accommodating the remaining 4 students (excluding the student who is not actively enrolled at ISU) would require approximately 4 more semesters of Nuc E course work involving two Nuc E courses per semester, this is equivalent to a 2/3 lecturer appointment for two years. An informal search for alternative instructors has been conducted over the past few years and there have been no potential candidates who could be hired as temporary lecturers for these courses, nor has anyone expressed interest in leading the minor. The most viable option would be to make arrangements with another university offering distance courses. Discussions between the chair of ME at ISU and Kansas State have indicated that KSU would be willing to admit these students into their distance Nuc E courses if they have a strong interest in the field. If needed, arrangements may be made on a case-by-case basis.

9. **Impact on underrepresented groups:** None of the enrolled students are women or members of underrepresented populations and so there would be no anticipated impacts on current or future ISU students.
Academic Program Approval Voting Record

This document is to be appended as the last page of the proposal for any new or revised academic program to record the successive votes of approval as the proposal moves through its required review and approval steps. Consult Faculty Handbook Section 10.8 or the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee website for information regarding Committee review and voting requirements for each action.

Curricular Action: (check appropriate boxes below)

1. □ New Program   □ Name Change   □ Discontinuation   □ Concurrent Degree for:
2. □ Undergraduate Major   □ Graduate Major   □ Undergraduate Minor   □ Graduate Minor
   □ Undergraduate Certificate   □ Graduate Certificate   □ Other: ___________________

3. Name of Proposed Change: ____________________________________________________

4. Name of Contact Person: Dr. Cris Schwartz, e-mail address: cris1@iastate.edu

5. Primary College: ENG Secondary College: ____________________________

6. Involved Department(s): ME ____________ ____________________________
   ____________________________ ____________________________

Voting record for this curricular action:

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<tr>
<th>Voting Body</th>
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<td>Dept. or Program Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>College Curriculum Committee</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12/1/18</td>
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<tr>
<td>College Approval Vote</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>5/18/19</td>
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<td>Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee</td>
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[FSCC – November 2013]