

Resolution 2017-18.R

Resolution to Approve New Major, Photonics, in Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering

Recommended by the Commission on Undergraduate Studies and Policies

First Reading: February 26, 2018

Reviewed/ **Waived** by Faculty Senate: February 27, 2018

Second Reading: March 26, 2018

Approved by University Council:

Approved by President:

First effective date to declare Major: Spring 2018

First effective date to graduate: Winter 2020

Whereas, a well-established number of faculty in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department (ECE) in the College of Engineering have international reputation, active research agendas, outreach activities, and teaching responsibilities in the areas of Photonics; and

Whereas, the ECE Department has a well-established and broad set of technical elective courses that provide students with the opportunity to gain further knowledge and experience in many different aspects of Electrical and Computer Engineering, and the new Major in Photonics establishes a required set of courses of the Photonics area while maintaining a robust curriculum within the same accredited Electrical Engineering Degree; and

Whereas, a strong number of students continue to select Photonics technical elective courses indicating a continued interest in the studies of Photonics; and

Whereas, the establishment of the Major in Photonics enables the ECE Department and the interested students to more clearly guide and establish educational objectives that align with societal, industrial and governmental needs; and

Whereas, Photonics studies prepares students for a wide range of advanced degree studies, or makes them more marketable with potential employers seeking students with this specific knowledge; and

Whereas, the Major in Photonics will provide for more curricular flexibility and specialization within the ECE Department, as well as a wider opportunity to participate in cross-disciplinary initiatives across the university.

Therefore, let it be resolved that the Major in Photonics be approved for addition to the Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering effective Spring 2018 and the proposal forwarded through University governance and the President for approval.