

# AACR 1

Office of the President  
February 22, 2011

Members, Board of Trustees:

CREATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING,  
AND MATHEMATICS (STEM) EDUCATION

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the creation of the Department of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education in the College of Education, effective July 1, 2011.

Background: Since the launch of Sputnik and the passing of the National Defense Education Act of 1958, the U.S. government and non-government organizations have continued to increase their funding of endeavors meant to improve K-20 STEM education. Recent reports have kept the concern for STEM education reform paramount in the nation's psyche.

The proposed Department of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Education will expand and enhance STEM Education at UK and for the Commonwealth in significant ways. The department will work in synergistic ways through the use of focused disciplinary and transdisciplinary practices to prepare 21<sup>st</sup> century STEM education leaders and to improve STEM education through implementation of research-based practices, engagement with the P20 communities and businesses, unique research experiences, and innovative programs. Along with strengthening teacher preparation programs already in place in continued collaboration with the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, the STEM Education Department will build new bachelor's and doctoral programs in science, technology, engineering, and/or mathematics education. The department will lead the Commonwealth in STEM Education research by attracting graduate students as well as future STEM faculty researchers pursuing cutting edge research in these disciplines.

The proposal has been reviewed and recommended by the Senate Academic Organization and Structure Committee and the Senate Council. The University Senate approved the proposal based upon its academic merits and endorsed the proposal based upon non-academic merits. The provost of the University supports the establishment of the Department.

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Action taken:     Approved     Disapproved     Other \_\_\_\_\_