

**COMMITTEE FOR THE REVIEW OF UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS
STANFORD UNIVERSITY**

Date: May 1, 2009

To: Karen Cook, Chair
XLI Senate of the Academic Council

From: Ian Hodder, Chair, Committee for the Review of Undergraduate Majors

Re: Recommendation to Renew the Individually Designed Majors in Engineering

The Committee for the Review of Undergraduate Majors reviewed the Individually Designed Majors in Engineering on May 1, 2009. This is a very small program, and is unusual among Schools of Engineering. Students go through a very rigorous process before they can be certified with an Individually Designed Major: two faculty members must agree to advise the student and an SoE Committee must approve the complete plan submitted by each student.

In past years, plans that students have created have become template majors within the Engineering IDMs (e.g. biomechanical engineering). Students who apply for an IDM are highly motivated and generally have personal strategies of long-range plans that go well beyond the undergraduate degree.

The IDM Program can be maintained comfortably by the School of Engineering; it serves students with very specific needs and also serves departments that want to study the possibility of new majors by introducing them under the IDM umbrella. C-RUM appreciated the work done by the students in the IDMs and also by the School of Engineering to continue this program; the committee voted unanimously to recommend a five-year renewal for the program.

The Committee for the Review of Undergraduate Majors therefore recommends the renewal of the Individually Designed Majors in Engineering, with degree-nominating authority for the BS degree, for a five-year period, from September 1, 2009, through August 31, 2014.

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INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNED MAJORS IN ENGINEERING

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(submitted by Brad Osgood, Senior Associate Dean of Engineering).
 - a. IDM Overview
 - b. Survey Results
 - c. IDM Graduates: Name of Degree
 - d. Stanford Bulletin Copy (IDMENS)
 - e. IDMs in Engineering Handbook