A Memorandum of Understanding between
Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering and
the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

September 12, 2008

Parties and Purpose. Inasmuch as the Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering (hereafter “Olin”) is a small, private institution with a remarkable track record of curricular, pedagogical, and programmatic innovation in its relatively short history, and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (hereafter “Illinois”) is a large, public institution with a remarkable track record of excellence in research and education over its somewhat longer history, and inasmuch as both institutions understand the importance of transforming the nature of engineering education to match the opportunities and challenges of the 21st century, Olin and Illinois agree to work together to further fundamental, principled, and widespread change in engineering education in the following ways.

Partnership. Olin and Illinois agree to work to improve engineering education in matters such as content, curriculum, pedagogy, and organizational change as part of an Olin-Illinois Partnership (OIP). The parties particularly understand and wish to solve the vexing problems of scaling the types of curriculum innovations employed at Olin for 300 undergraduate students to an institution such as Illinois with over 5300 undergraduate students. A variety of means are available for such cooperation, including joint research, faculty or student visits or exchanges, joint discussions, meetings or seminars, and the sharing of curriculum, content, or pedagogical materials. The agreement contemplates the sophisticated use of modern electronic communications and networks to facilitate these activities.

Larger alliance. Olin and Illinois agree to work to form a large, national and international alliance of like-minded schools and colleges of engineering to promote curriculum transformation around the country and around the globe. The alliance is tentatively called Promoting Innovations in Engineering Education or PIE$^2$. A variety of means are available to initiate and extend the alliance, including small planning meetings, seminars and workshops, publication of books, proceedings, and journals, and dissemination and publication on the web. The intent of PIE$^2$ is to form a large, trusted, grassroots network of institutions committed to the transformation of engineering education through the open sharing of best practices, content, curriculum, pedagogical materials and student-learning outcomes data.

Resources. Olin and Illinois agree to designate an individual responsible to oversee these joint activities. Further, Olin and Illinois will seek extramural contributions in support of PIE$^2$ goals, including funding, in-kind, and other forms of support from public and private sources.

Dissemination. Olin and Illinois agree that the open sharing of the ideas and practices learned as part of PIE$^2$ activities is important to their widespread dissemination and ultimately to the transformation of engineering education. With that in mind, the parties agree to joint and separate dissemination of results through a variety of publications, speaking engagements, public relations activities, and other means.

Term and amendment. The agreement is in force for a period of one year and may be extended or amended or modified by joint agreement of the parties. The agreement may be terminated by either party without cause upon written notice.
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have offered their signatures:

FRANKLIN W. OLIN
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

By: Richard K. Miller
Title: President

By: Michael E. Moody
Title: Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

By: [Signature]
Title: Comptroller

By: Michele R. Thompson
Title: Secretary

9-30-08

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL FORM:

By: [Signature]
Title: Office of University Counsel

APPROVED:

By: Richard Herman
Title: Chancellor

By: Ilesanmi Adesida
Title: Dean of the College of Engineering