Dear Nancy,

The Academic Subcommittee has reviewed BEE's petition to admit Vishal Bhagwandas to the MEng program. (Since Mark Turnquist was unavailable, I asked Peter Jackson to review the case in his stead.)

We unanimously agree to approve the petition; however, we maintain serious reservations about Vishal’s ability to perform at a satisfactory level academically and strongly recommend that BEE impose additional provisions on his admission. Namely, that he: (1) maintains a 2.7 GPA for the Fall 2012 semester (omitting from the calculation all courses that are not relevant to the degree), and (2) receives no grade lower than a C-. In addition, we recommend that any late withdrawal from a course (i.e., a "W") in order to satisfy (1) or (2) be viewed as a violation of these provisions.

Please let us know if further action is required.

Many thanks,

-- Kathryn
Kathryn Caggiano, Ph.D.
Senior Lecturer and Director, Master of Engineering Studies
School of Operations Research and Information Engineering
216 Rhodes Hall
Cornell University
Ithaca, NY 14853

Phone: 607-255-2370
Email: kec4@cornell.edu

On 4/19/2012 11:19 AM, Graduate Engineering Studies wrote:

Dear MEC Members:

BEE has submitted a petition for Vishal Bhagwandas.

The student’s petition can be found at:
http://www.intranet.engineering.cornell.edu/intranet/ORGsPE/MEngCommittee/documents/BEE_Vishal_Bhagwandas_Petition.pdf

The student’s application can be found at:
http://www.intranet.engineering.cornell.edu/intranet/ORGsPE/MEngCommittee/documents/BEE_Vishal_Bhagwandas_Application.pdf

This is a notification only, your vote is not required at this stage. As per the MEC procedures, the Chair of the Academic Subcommittee will contact the subcommittee members and will notify RGS of the members’ collective decision or recommendation for further review.
Regards,
Nancy Gehres

For your quick reference, the full text of the procedure is below.
All petition materials will continue be posted on the intranet, and the office of Research and Graduate Studies (RGS) will
continue to notify the MEC by email when a petition is submitted (although no vote will be required unless the Academic
subcommittee recommends further review). The Chair of the Academic Subcommittee will take responsibility for
contacting the members of the Academic subcommittee and for notifying RGS of the members' collective decision. The
Academic subcommittee will attempt to render a decision within 3 business days, which may be “approve”, “approve
with specified conditions”, “deny” or “refer to MEC for further review.” RGS will notify the MEC of the subcommittee's
decision, explicitly indicating that the decision will be considered final unless an MEC member formally objects within 3
business days. If the subcommittee does not render a decision by the next MEC meeting, the petition shall be placed on
the MEC meeting agenda.

-----Original Message-----
From: Brenda Marchewka
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2012 1:28 PM
To: Kathryn Elizabeth Caggiano; James A Bartsch
Cc: Graduate Engineering Studies; Yoanna Ferrara
Subject: RE: Vishal Bhagwandas, Mengr Petition from BEE

On 4/16/2012 12:32 PM, James A Bartsch wrote:
> Vishal  Bhagwandas, Mengr Petiton
> 
> >
> >
> > Dear Kathryn:
> >
> > Vishal  Bhagwandas applied to BEE for his MEngr program. Vishal earned his BS degree from CALS in the
> Interdisciplanry Studies major with a minor in Business in 2011 and has completed nearly all of the BEE
> undergraduate curriculum. His undergraduate GPA is 2.51, his GRE scores are 520, 750 and 4.
> >
> > I reviewed Vishal's record. He has completed all but 6 engineering credits and two advanced biology credits
> for the undergraduate major in biological engineering, so I feel he has the background to pursue the MEngr
degree in BEE.
> >
> > Professor Dan Aneshansley has worked with Vishal to develop a MEngr project and list of courses for the
degree (this is indicated in Dan's letter of recommendation in the CollegeNet file). Any additional engineering
or science courses deemed necessary background for the MEngr would be taken outside the 30 credits for the
degree. Prof Aneshansley supports Vishal's admission.
> >
> > The second letter from Professor Antje Baeumner, BEE DGS, states "from his attitude and performance in my
> class [BEE 4590, Biosensors] there is a lot more to him than his Cornell GPA would make us all assume".
> >
> > Our Graduate admissions committee recommends we admit Vishal, and that he work with Professor
> Aneshansley. The field respectfully submits this petition to the MEC.
> >
> > Sincerely,
> >
> > James A. Bartsch, PE
> Mengr Representative
> Biological& Environmental Engineering
> 314 Riley Robb
> 607-255-2800