College of Engineering
Executive Committee Meeting
April 8, 2016
1:00-3:00pm
Eccles Boardroom

Excused: Ross Whitaker, SoC
Guests: Ruth Watkins, Sr. VP for Academic Affairs, Mary Hall, SoC

Calendar items:

April 22 @ 5:00 pm   Steve Jacobsen Memorial    USTAR Auditorium
May 5 @ 6:30pm    Commencement
May 6 @ 11:30am    Convocations, Special Guests Attending: Ruth Watkins, Sr. VP for Academic Affairs, Board of Trustees members David Burton and Michelle Madsen and Governor and Mrs. Herbert Governor Herbert will make remarks at Convocations.

May 9-13
College clean-up for labs
The College will advertise the week long clean-up campaign. Faculty should be encouraged to take this opportunity to clean up areas. Faculty should contact Michael Kay for pick-up of material. Old equipment should go through property and chemicals should be disposed of through DHS.

May 20
ENAC Theme: Capitalizing on Opportunities
Special Guest: Robert Grow, Envision Utah
New board members: Jeanette Herring, True North Logic; Denson Chao, Cao Group, Inc.; Jonathan Richards, patent attorney at Workman Nydegger; and John Williams, EPS, LLC.

October 21
ENAC at WET in Burbank, California

Follow-up

Lab Safety: There has been significant recent discussion about lab safety on university campuses due to serious accidents including a student death at UCLA. Faculty faced criminal charges for not having adequate training in place. A shift in the safety culture is coming down through university presidents, and universities are setting up college-wide safety programs.

International student recruiting:
The university is still interested in recruiting top international students who pay full tuition. Denson Chao, an alum of Material Science Engineering recently took a trip to China and visited with principals of five top High Schools in northern and central China who are interested in creating a pipeline and are willing to set up a special track leading them to the U. These schools would like collateral material and information on admissions from the University and Engineering for use in recruiting students. They would prefer that this
information be in electronic form. This can be a great opportunity for us to get top undergraduate students from China.

Entrepreneur Certificate
Efforts to establish the Entrepreneur Certificate are moving forward. A faculty member has been identified in the School of Business who will teach courses at the 5000 level. Engineering graduates who have a grasp on business and intellectual property will benefit whether they are working in a large company or a startup company. Dean Brown would like to come to the department retreats in the fall to explain the benefits of this certificate to all of our faculty.

Development:
Development is happy to report two recent significant gifts. On Dec 30th Jason Job gave $250k for the bridge to the Rio Tinto Kennecott Bldg, which will be named “Job’s Crossing.” Pete Meldrum gave $500k for the renovation and remodeling of a new innovation lab in Chemical Engineering.

**Discussion Items**

Exit interviews:
Due to state legislation passed last year, we must collect by department, information regarding retention, time to graduation, and employment after graduation. The exit interview allows us to obtain this information. The college has designed a new online form that is being customized for each department. At the top of the form is the information for the state. The middle section is used by the department to collect information on specific courses or anything else that the department wants to ask. The data from these first two sections is anonymized. The bottom of the form gives us contact information for the person after graduation. Because of the importance of collecting this information, students should be told that taking the survey is a graduation requirement. Departments are free to do the surveys in person (and have the interviewer fill out the form), or have the students fill out the form on their own.

Dissertation awards:
Many universities offer a Best Dissertation Award at the department and college levels. The Executive Committee approved doing this at an earlier meeting. The awards will be given on a calendar-year basis, starting next year. To be eligible, dissertations must be published in the previous calendar year. Departments should review nominated dissertations in January, and pass their winning dissertations on to the college to be reviewed in February. The Award winners will be recognized at Engineering Convocation.

Ruth Watson was welcomed to the meeting.

ECE Live Chat Feature:
The ECE department has recently implemented a live chat feature on its advising web page. Gianluca gave a brief presentation demonstrating the new feature and also showed positive
statistics of its usage thus far. Matt Gauthier, webmaster in the dean’s office, can set it up on department websites. Gianluca will send his presentation to the department chairs.

Recruiting Update:
BIO - 2 open positions. Invited 6 for interviews. Made 2 offers. Excited about their female hire as she had many offers.
CHE – last year hired 4. Have 3 open positions right now. 2 offers pending 1 offer being made right now. Made 6 offers which were unsuccessful.
ECE - 2-3 openings and a position being vacated. Looking for 4. 3 women interviewed. We have a couple offers out. No firm commitments.
ME - trying to hire 6 and probably 6 next year. Four faculty are on phased retirement and one faculty member resigned due to family demands. Seven offers: 1 rejected 3 accepted: 2 men, 1 women. Confident on 3 more hires. Think we’ll get 5 or 6. Very talented group this year. Interviewed 12 and liked 11 that we brought on campus.
SoC – 7 searches. 2 hires. 4 offers out. Still interviewing.
COE – 24 current searches. Approximately 4 candidates for each position.

Ruth: It’s not a bad thing when you have big searches to spread them over 2 years especially when you’re working hard with the diversity issue. COE has hired good faculty. As our faculty improves, we are able to hire even better faculty.

Direct admissions:
Beginning last fall semester, the college has been working with the Admissions Office and directly admitting freshmen engineering students. Students who do not meet the criteria go into pre-engineering. As of April 8, 1550 were admitted: 673 engineering and 875 pre-engineering with SoC, ME and Bio having the most students. A calling campaign by our students’ hopes to encourage the direct admits to finalize their enrollments. We are focused on making the pre-engineering to admitted status seamless.

Ruth: Direct admission is what separates us and the very top universities. We want to be careful that pre-engineering does not become a B team as there are some really smart students in that pool. The challenge will shift from recruiting to retaining as they find out that engineering is hard.

Graduate student leave policy:
Ruth Watkins agreed to have Amy Wildermuth and Dave Kieda draft a simple, non-complex university wide policy that’s a minimum for graduate students. This policy would look similar to FMLA which will give them leave and allow them to return.

Student Clubs:
The College would like to support student clubs in a uniform way. The university Risk Management Office has expressed concerns about the U sponsoring any student groups. We would like to host their websites in a special (non-utah.edu) domain, so that it’s clear that they belong to their national organization rather than to the College of Engineering.
Hosting their web sites can be a big help to them, and can help us to maintain university design standards and College of Engineering quality. Dr. Watkins gave us permission to do this.

Dr. Watkins: A recent survey showed that the U of U has the greatest value of any of the PAC-12 schools or Utah institutions of higher education. This survey looks at earnings after graduation and incoming student quality.

The U is top-tier for 1st year retention. This, combined with low tuition and high outcomes is a homerun!

Engineering is becoming more popular as a major. Ten years ago, 7% of entering freshmen indicated that they want to go into Engineering disciplines; now that number is 14%.

The U’s residency requirement is the most generous in the nation. At the U, 20% of undergraduate students are out-of-state. Of these, 80% establish residency as soon as possible.

The U’s online programs are growing very well. Utah has the highest percentage in the nation of adults that started but didn’t finish. On-line programs would help those who live far from the university to finish review.

The upper administration is discussing having all freshmen live on campus their first year. The University as a whole has 1500 to 1800 transfer students per year compared to 3500 freshman. Berkeley also has a lot of transfer students.