The College of Engineering Executive Committee Meeting was held in room 3147 MEB, the School of Computing Conference Room.

Prior to the beginning of the meeting, Dean Roemer and Vlado Hlady, Chair of the Department of Bioengineering, took President Betz and Laura Snow on a tour of the Bioengineering Teaching Labs.

Dean Roemer welcomed President Betz and Laura Snow to the meeting. He introduced the members of the Committee and then gave an “overview” Power Point presentation on the College.

President Betz stated that he hoped to accomplish two things from his visit:

1. To become better informed about what is going on in each unit of the University in order to help the new president understand the issues and to more effectively put context to things that come before the new president.
2. To take the opportunity to understand lower campus better so we can find bridges between upper and lower campus, particularly with the College of Engineering.

Interdisciplinary collaboration with the Health Sciences was an issue the Committee members wanted to discuss with President Betz. Larry Reavely noted that there could be connections between Civil and Environmental Engineering and Public Health, especially the Rocky Mountain Center. In that context, Dean Roemer commented that Professor Bloswick is associated with the Public Health Program, Occupational & Environmental Health, which is offered through the Health Sciences.

Vlado Hlady commented that many Bioengineering faculty have cross appointments with Health Sciences and a large number of faculty from the Health Sciences have appointments in Bioengineering. They support and advise our graduate students. One-fourth of all Bioengineering grants are in collaboration with people on upper campus.
This arises because of a joint interest. We would like to see more exposure to clinical settings for our Bioengineering undergraduate program.

President Betz was interested in who receives credit for grants in these collaborative efforts? Vlado felt that sharing credit is not a problem. Patrick Tresco commented that we are trying to make it work but we do have concerns that the incentive for faculty to stay in their department weakens when the other academic program receives the recognition. Phil Smith commented that by nature engineering is interdisciplinary. However, as we work with different institutions and people start associating with their first love (for some faculty, their research) it is easy to be drawn away from the department culture. When you see faculty taken away, then loyalties are questioned. We must work with the concern because doing interdisciplinary work is worth the reward.

Joe Klewicki commented that faculty aren’t very well rewarded when doing interdisciplinary work and that junior faculty should not be penalized for doing interdisciplinary work. Chris Johnson felt that we need more practical measures within the RPT guidelines that state that interdisciplinary work is to be awarded--money and award incentives that are within the rules of the University.

President Betz wanted to know, when our new dean comes on board this summer, what issues will be suggested to him that he needs to work on right away? Ideas expressed were: building bridges, raising the quality of the College and getting the word out, improving the ranking of the College, increasing research productivity, improving our local reputation, understanding that we all benefit when anyone in the College does good, for example, growing the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department.

President Betz commented that an approach the University is going to be taking is to work with the business community to become advocates with what we are doing at the University. The flagship institution of the state of Utah should be the U and every student should want to come here.

Larry Reaveley asked President Betz how he viewed the relationship between the U and USU. President Betz commented that in October, the Governor challenged the two research universities, the U and USU, to work together. President Betz expressed that he was cautious about that collaboration.

Dean Roemer thanked President Betz and Laura Snow for attending the meeting.

Patrick Tresco commented that without our research dollars funding our undergraduate program, we would not have the quality program we now have. Phil Smith commented that the tuition waiver hurts us and we would be better off to control that individually through our proposals. Michael Kay commented that the reason the tuition waiver program is not favorable for the College is that, although our students benefit from the program, other units receiving this benefit do not generate overhead which means our overhead is being used to subsidize other colleges’ students. Patrick Tresco asked if there would be support from the departments for an interdisciplinary biomedical engineering
program. It was generally agreed upon that this could be a good development. Such a program could be supported by indirect dollars (as is the Neurosciences program) and would give students the flexibility to work where they are interested. It was agreed that a concrete proposal be created and given to faculty for review and input.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The Executive Committee Retreat will be held on Friday, April 30, at the Officer’s Club.

- There is a call for nominations for the Governor’s Medal for Science and Technology. Nominations are due to Ray Gesteland’s office by May 7. Dean Roemer asked that suggestions be sent to him by mid-April.

- Valdo Hlady is stepping down as chair of the Department of Bioengineering after four years. He has done a great job growing the department and the faculty. We are appreciative for all he has done for the department, especially while building the undergraduate program. As part of the process in selecting a new chair, Dean Roemer is currently meeting with Bioengineering faculty to get their input.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

CAD
Dean Roemer reported that there is a new policy regarding alcoholic beverages on campus, which is forthcoming.

Budget/Legislative Activities
Dean Roemer reported that the Legislature provided funding for a 1% salary increase for all faculty and staff. Departments will have a 0-4% leeway to recognize productivity or lack of. However, for a salary adjustment above 4% or below 1% a letter of justification needs to be prepared. A one-time bonus of $512 will be given to each employee at the end of the year.

The legislature also gave a 5% increase to help cover the increased cost of health insurance. Health insurance costs will increase 10-11%; however, the Administration said that they will cover the difference. The Administration will also fund promotions and tenure at the same rate as before: $2,000 for faculty promoted to the rank of associate professor and $3,000 for faculty promoted to the rank of full professor.

The Legislature appropriated $500,000 in ongoing and $500,000 in one time funding to the Utah System of Higher Education. The TIAB, composed of Utah industry representatives, will meet to decide on how the money will be allocated system wide.

Dean Roemer commented that Marilyn Davies has done a fantastic job in leading the way for our success in the Legislature again this year. Clyde Heiner and John Sutherland, members of our IAB, have spent countless hours of their personal time before the Legislature. They have also done a fantastic job.
Strategic Plan/Interdisciplinary Research
Dean Roemer commented that in terms of outreach, he has met with Jack Brittain, Dean, of the School of Business. Cindy Furse and Neil Cotter, from Electrical & Computer Engineering, have been working with Rohit Verma, from the School of Business, exploring ideas for integrating business into the engineering curriculum. A request will probably be made to Dave Pershing for quality money to start interdisciplinary activities in Electrical Engineering. When this project is ready to go, we will invite Cindy to discuss it with the Committee.

B.A. in Engineering
JoAnn Lighty recently visited Brown University. They offer a B.A. degree in engineering. After a discussion, it was decided that this would not be a beneficial program for our College.

Engineering Building Update
Dean Roemer reported that Marilyn Davies has received the last bit of money, completing the Campaign for Engineering Excellence. The donors were John Warnock and Dave Pershing. Marilyn is to be congratulated for her tireless efforts.

JoAnn Lighty reported that the architect for the new building will be Anshen & Allen out of San Francisco. The local firm will be Prescott Muir. The building will be located in the parking lot east of EMCB with a possible connection with EMCB. IT specialists are the Sextant Group, Pittsburg PA. Contractor interviews will take place April 22. Construction will begin February 2005, with completion in June 2006 and occupancy in the fall of 2006. A “war room” for the architects and contractors will be established in JoAnn’s office in July when she steps down as associate dean for academic affairs.

Dean Roemer reported that the occupants of the new building will be the dean’s office, SCI, teaching and student space, an exhibit/lobby area and some faculty and administration from the School of Computing, with that mix still to be decided. Out of 65,000 sq. ft., there is still 12,000 – 14,000 undefined space at this time, which will be for computationally oriented faculty, preferably with an interdisciplinary flavor.

Dean Roemer reported that Chris Johnson has submitted a proposal for research funding through NIH National Centers for Biomedical Computing. Chris commented that the proposal is for $22M over the next 5 years. Three to 4 national centers will be established this year and 3 to 4 next year. If Chris’s proposal is selected, he will require major space and will hire 25 new people immediately. Such a group would be a strong candidate for the open, computationally oriented building space. The award date is in September 2004.

ABET
JoAnn Lighty reported that Anne Grossenbach has given our response to our ABET team on the advising weakness in Computer Engineering. A new plan has been developed by JoAnn Lighty and University College to achieve more alignment in both places.
advisor whose expertise will be in transfer schools will be hired and shared between Computer Engineering (50%) and University College (25%). The responsibilities of Mike Boren, current college academic advisor, will move more to on-campus advising and retention issues. He will be the liaison with the new advisor. Sometime in July or August ABET will vote on the removal of the weakness. Bioengineering will have an ABET visit next year. Vlado commented that their self-study is being completed.

Teaching in Excellence Committee
The Teaching in Excellence Committee selects the recipients for the College Outstanding Teacher and Outstanding TA awards, which are presented at the Fall Faculty and Staff Meeting. In the past, nominations have been sparse. The Committee has met and decided on guidelines to encourage more nominations and to create a more uniform nomination process. A call will go out in the next couple of weeks to faculty and graduate and undergraduate sacs to submit nominations. Notice of intent to nominate is due to the Dean’s office on April 16 and completed nomination packages are due May 14. Chris Johnson commented that the School of Computing has started a new annual tradition of selecting their own outstanding teacher and TA.