Announcements/Updates

Engineering Initiative
Dean Brown distributed a Memorandum from Rich Kendall, Commissioner of the State Board of Regents, regarding the Engineering and Computer Science Initiative. Distribution of funds appropriated by the Legislature is recommended by the Technology Initiative Advisory Board (TIAB). Prior to the TIAB’s decision meeting, John Sutherland, Chair of the TIAB, talks to each dean and has them submit a report on what was done with the money they received last year, and their proposal for this year. The response from some of the deans this year was disappointing to the TIAB members, in that they did not report on the previous funds and did not justify their request in their new proposals. The TIAB prefers to fund faculty positions, as this translates into increased capacity to produce graduates. Past performance (growth) is important. This year some schools requested use of ongoing funds for student recruitment; however, the TIAB did not see this as aligning with the objectives of the Initiative. Funds were distributed based on past performance, quality of the request, and the prospect for growing capacity of the programs. The U was allocated half of the ongoing ($250,000) and half of one-time ($350,000) funds provided by the Legislature for the 2006-2007 year. Some of the nine state schools did not receive any money.

Funding for the Engineering and Computer Science Initiative has officially ended with this fifth year. Industry is still very supportive of engineering education and the demand for new engineers is increasing. Larry Reaveley (CVEE) and Phil Smith (ChE) reported that wages for their graduates are up 25%. We will wait to see what our graduation numbers look like this year and then decide how to proceed regarding this style of funding.

Department External Advisory Committees
Dean Brown reported that at the April 21, 2006 Executive Committee Meeting, Department External Advisory Committees were discussed. (An excerpt from the Minutes regarding that discussion was distributed.) One of the strategic goals of the College is to look and to act like the best Colleges of Engineering. The best schools all have advisory committees. All chairs, except Kent Udell (ME), reported that they have
an advisory committee, but some of these committees need to become better organized. Kent said that his faculty need to be convinced that they should have a committee.

Dean Brown commented that during the recent ABET visit we requested input from our IAB and ENAC board members. A department can have an industrial advisory committee in addition to a national advisory committee, or a single advisory committee that serves both needs; each department should make the decision about what would serve them best. It is important to have a national advisory committee, which should include academics as well as friends from industry. The committee is actually an advisory board to the chair, but it should have a chance to interact with the faculty so that the committee members feel connected to the department. Part of accreditation is demonstrating that we are listening to industry, especially those hiring our graduates. Larry Reaveley said that the committees need to be working on important issues in order to remain engaged and to function effectively. All departments should formalize their advisory committees.

New Appointments
Dean Brown welcomed Milind Deo, professor of Chemical Engineering, to the meeting in his new role as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Milind will be in charge of most everything you think of on the academic side of the dean’s office, except that Patrick Tresco will continue to lead the Engineering Honors Program and Dean Brown will manage the International Relations. CLEAR will be under Milind’s supervision. Patrick will now be Associate Dean for Research, a busy role with the USTAR activity that is upon us.

USTAR Proposals
USTAR proposals are due May 1. The University would like to have more of a strategic plan approach to submission of proposals. USTAR funding is intended to assist the U in recruiting established researchers that will bring well-funded research programs with high commercial potential to the University. Ideally, proposals will be interdisciplinary. Engineering should be a central participant in this program. Faculty are encouraged to write and submit proposals. Patrick and Rich are available to help make these proposals strong. Proposals are due to the University on May 1. A copy of each proposal submitted should be given to Patrick.

Each chair reported on proposals being submitted from their department. A summary chart of proposals brought up by the chairs is attached. Dean Brown commented that one person from each of the areas representing USTAR proposals will be asked to give a summary of proposals in their area at the ENAC Meeting on May 12.

Marilyn Davies reviewed the agenda of the ENAC meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35.