COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
October 26, 2007

Minutes

Present: Richard Brown, Milind Deo, Patrick Tresco, Rick Rabbitt, JoAnn Lighty, Paul Tikalsky, Behrouz Farhang-Boroujeny (ECE), Anil Virkar, Kent Udell, Martin Berzins, Sandy Bruhn, Vicki Jensen

Excused: Marilyn Davies, Michael Kay, Marc Bodson

Announcements/Updates

Dean Brown welcomed Behrouz Farhang-Boroujeny to the meeting, representing Marc Bodson, Chair of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Update on OSP Support for the College of Engineering
Dean Brown reported that the chairs/director should have received a memo from Brent Brown, Director of the Office of Sponsored Projects, giving an update on the status of OSP support for the College. A new Grants and Contracts Officer, Ed Black, has been hired; his primary responsibility is to provide additional support on grants for the College of Engineering. Dean Brown continues to hear some complaints but has also received a few notes complimenting and thanking OSP for their improved service. Paul Tikalsky commented that Ed Black has made a huge difference for his department; he is very responsive to faculty. Behrouz Farhang-Boroujeny and Anil Virkar commented that their faculty have also had positive experiences with Ed. Patrick Tresco has been appointed a member of OSP’s advisory committee.

ECE Chair Search
The ECE external chair search is still active. Dean Brown asked the Committee that if they think of people in electrical or computer engineering that they think would be good chair candidates to please contact Cindy Furse, chair of the search committee. A couple of potential candidates have visited the Department and presented seminars. The faculty were very enthused about one of the candidates, Jim Duncan from Yale University.

New Hire in Outreach
Jeff Bates is a new hire in the College Outreach area. His responsibilities will focus on presentations in schools. He has been working as an admissions counselor in the University’s Student Recruitment and High School Services program.

The FARs are due February 29, 2008
Data from PeopleSoft should be incorporated more smoothly into the FARs this year, making it easier for faculty to report on their activities and accomplishments.
Funding the USTAR Building
Dean Brown reported that the Micron foundation committee met and approved a gift of $1.25 M for the USTAR Building. Another major ask is pending.

Teaching Workshop
Milind Deo reported that there will be a Teaching Workshop for all College of Engineering faculty on November 15 from 12:00 – 5:00 pm in 2109 MEB (ME conference room). The first half of the workshop will be 5-7 minute presentations by select faculty on their teaching philosophy. The presentations will be followed by a question and discussion session. Milind will give a briefing on his attendance at the ABET Annual Meeting which includes a Faculty Workshop on Assessing Program Outcomes (to be held October 30-November 2).

Paul Tikalsky commented that the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) runs a training program developed to help faculty learn how to teach engineers. Participants are guaranteed to become more organized and forthright teachers. Steve Burian is a mentor of that program. (Steve received the University of Utah 2007 Early Career Teaching Award, which is the University’s highest teaching award for new faculty.) All of CVEE faculty will participate in the program which runs twice a year.

Dixie State College/UofU
Dean Brown said that there has been a lot of reporting in the newspapers about a possible partnership between Dixie State College and the University of Utah. The University has appointed Chuck Wight as the point person for discussions on this matter. There is a possibility that Dixie will become the University of Utah at St. George. This proposed partnership would provide more opportunities for the U to expand its academic offerings with Dixie. Because of the growth in the St. George area and the close proximity to Las Vegas, Dixie has the potential to grow in enrollment. This partnership would also broaden the U’s political influence in the state.

Engineering Programs in Utah
Dean Brown and Dave Pershing attended a meeting at Commissioner Kendall’s office recently with provosts and deans of engineering from other institutions of higher education across the state to discuss the future of engineering programs in Utah. Weber has a BS in engineering proposal currently under consideration and UVSC is working on a request to offer various BS engineering programs. Commissioner Kendall is preparing a report of recommendations on how engineering education should run in the state for the next five years. In this meeting, Dean Brown offered that the College would be willing to provide some remote courses, even at the UG level, to the other schools. This would allow students to stay a little longer at their school before transferring to the U to complete an engineering degree. Dean Brown asked the chairs/director to talk to their faculty about the possibility of offering more courses remotely.

Recruiting Graduate Students
Dean Brown, Patrick Tresco and Milind Deo recently met with their counterparts from BYU and discussed exchanging lists of potential graduate students. One benefit of the
exchange would be the opportunity for recruitment of more domestic students. Prior to exchanging student lists, permission must be obtained from the students. The Executive Committee agreed that this would be handled at the department level. Some departments are already involved in such exchanges.

**Discussion Items**

**Bioengineering Strategic Plan**

Dean Brown turned the time over to Rick Rabbitt, commenting that Bioengineering is doing a lot of things in an exemplary way.

The Bio/Biophysics program was established in 1960. The current Bioengineering program was established in 1972. MS, ME, and PhD degrees are offered; however the ME degree is being phased out. Entering freshmen are the top 6% of high school students. The average GPA for MS/PhD students is 3.6. Fifty percent of graduating BIO students go to industry, 24% to academics (this is increasing), 19% to medicine, and 9% start up companies.

There are 21 tenure track faculty. 80% of the tenure track faculty have primary appointments in Health Sciences and 70% of the faculty are involved in one or more of the following institutes: Brain Institute (BI), Cardiovascular Research & Training Institute (CVRTI), Scientific Computing and Imaging (SCI), Utah Center for Advanced Imaging Research (UCAIR), Center for Controlled Chemical Delivery (CCD). Research is good - $500,000 a year per faculty. Annually, Rick gives each faculty member a report showing their ranking among other department faculty for SCH/FTE, PhD student SCH, teaching FTE, expenditures, publications, etc. The top three faculty are listed on each ranking.

The Annual Mountain West Biomedical Engineering Conference is in its third year and is attended by students, faculty, and industry and community leaders.

The BIO website was reviewed. Information recorded on PubMed automatically populates information for each faculty member. PubMed is a service of the U.S. National Library of Medicine that includes over 17 million citations from MEDLINE and other life science journals for biomedical articles.

Patrick Tresco commented that the new College website should be live around January.

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 pm