Present: Richard Brown, Milind Deo, Patrick Tresco, Marilyn Davies, Michael Kay, Rick Rabbitt, JoAnn Lighty, Paul Tikalsky, Marc Bodson, Dinesh Shetty (MSE), Kent Udell, Martin Berzins, Phil Smith, Sandy Bruhn.

Excused: Anil Virkar, Vicki Jensen

Announcements/Updates

Endowed Chair Announcement
The College will soon officially announce a $2.5M presidential endowed chair from EnergySolutions in the area of nuclear engineering. EnergySolutions will provide the money over a six year period. There is a possibility of getting adjunct faculty from EnergySolutions to teach in our nuclear engineering program, and of getting additional funding in the future. The College will provide two tenure-track faculty positions to nuclear engineering, the senior position that will occupy the chair, and a junior faculty position.

The NRC posted 350 openings for the nuclear power industry. Exelon is building two power plants which will require 2,000 personnel. There are more openings than there are people to fill them. Upcoming retirements out of the industry will only exacerbate the problem. These are tremendous opportunities for our students – but there are few nuclear students coming through the University now.

The College of Engineering has made a commitment to growing energy educational offerings. As part of this, and in response to a student petition, both CvE and ChE are working on minors in nuclear energy. Nuclear energy minors would be appropriate in other departments, i.e. BIO/nuclear medicine.

INL has indicated that they want closer connections to the U. Dean Brown asked Patrick Tresco to organize a meeting between interested faculty in our college and INL personnel.

Engineering Systems Certificate
An Engineering Certificate program is being put together by ME. The more involvement from different departments, the stronger the Certificate will be. If a department wants to participate, please contact Don Bloswick and get him a list of elective courses. We will send the Certificate forward as one Certificate for the whole College. EE, CvE, and ChE have responded so far.
Budget Update
Departments have received budgets from Michael Kay. FARs should already be submitted so raises/merit increases can be determined. Budget meetings between department chairs/director and the dean are scheduled.

Engineering Initiative – The Engineering Initiative effort this year was not successful. The situation changed drastically on the next to last day of the legislative session. At 7:30 A.M. we told the IAB members that it looked like there was $800 K of on-going funding for the Initiative. At 10:00 A.M. an amendment was passed that took all of the Initiative money and gave it to Weber State with no match required, for an avionics program that doesn’t exist and has not been approved. We understand that this was the intent of some of the legislators all along. In the end, $250 K of one-time money was made available for the Initiative. It will be focused on student outreach/retention. We will put together a proposal (due on April 7) to get our share of this money.

Future status of Initiative – some legislators are talking about an “Engineering Initiative II.” We will be in discussions over the summer. To be successful, we must have a powerful member of the Executive Appropriations Committee who will be the champion for this.

India Remote Distance Master’s Program
John Francis took a trip to India recently. He visited IIT Kharagpur, where we have an exchange agreement being reviewed. A number of faculty from there are interested in collaborating with U of U faculty.

Some U alumni at the Jack Welsh Center in Bangalore, a first class institute that is part of GE, were interested in having the U provide a remote master’s program (non-thesis) that people at the Center could take. The question was “are we interested?” Several of the chairs felt it would be a wonderful opportunity. Because we already offer courses to ATK and others, we would not be starting from scratch. The chairs/director need to have discussions with their faculty about this - it’s a big commitment but India is such an important country in engineering. Dean Brown would like to hear back from the chairs/director. In conjunction with this, it was brought up that we need a facility to deliver lectures remotely. Michael Kay pointed out that 2230 WEB will have the equipment and people to facilitate the recording and transmission of lectures.

USTAR
Only $2.5 million of one-time money was allocated for USTAR this year. We don’t know what it will support, but it can’t really support all the groups selected. We are hopeful it will support some engineering/CS faculty positions.

Warnock Displays
The long hallway feature wall between the gallery and the classroom is focused on CvE now. The plan is to change the images each semester. Marilyn Davies asked which department wanted to go next. Six strong images and some smaller images are needed. It can be on the department or a topical display.
Suggestions were requested on what to do with the beautiful white walls of the old EMCB building.

There has been a palpable positive change in the student community with the use of the Warnock Engineering Building. A discussion is ongoing on providing student recreational space in both Warnock and Sage Point.

Graduate Student Recruiting
ME has had incredibly good success in grad student recruiting. They have a great poster that pushes the big picture of Utah. They target the top 25 students who apply to the program and invite them out for a ski weekend and have them stay with current ME grad students. ME uses ATK money to pay for this. The Dean commented that “there is no way to overemphasize having good grad students.”

Development Report
There has been a significant amount of giving. USTAR Building – the state has committed to $100 million based on our ability to raise $30 million in non-state funds. $10 million in institutional funds have been identified. In addition, donations are being made which brings us to within $3.75 million of our goal.

Endowment packets have been sent to each department. If help is needed in filling these out, please contact Marilyn Davies or Sarah Bagdoian.

The Dean thanked the chairs/director for their efforts in development. There are lots of ways to effect people’s involvement with the department. One such connection resulted in Rocky Mountain Power just recently giving ECE $50 K.

Brown Fellowships
Next year the deadline for the Brown’s is being pushed up three weeks. Many of the departments’ grad program deadlines are before February 1, so in line with being able to use the Brown as a recruiting tool, the deadline will be around January 21. For this year, please notify Sandy Bruhn of your Brown acceptances.

Discussion Items

Convocation
Honors in Engineering Recognition – Honors degree recipients are noted in the printed program. In addition, all recipients should note on the reader card they are Honors in Engineering degree recipients.

Department Receptions – keep in mind that the WEB gallery is available for receptions.

The Dean asked for suggestions on how to make the convocation run more efficiently. The chairs/director agreed that they would like all the graduate students for each
department together, i.e. all of BIO’s Ph.D.s, M.S.s, and M.E.s would be announced before moving on to ChE’s.

It was also suggested that all of the undergrads for a particular department go through before announcing the next department’s graduates. We will see if we can figure out how to do this logistically. Input for improving our convocation exercises is always welcome.

RPT/Mentoring/Advice
File Format – we are working on a web-based tool for entering the RPT casefile data. The data will be entered as PDFs. The dean’s office could generate multiple CDs for the department RPT advisory committees to use, or members of the RPT committee could be granted access to the data on the web. Confidentially was discussed, especially for the letters of reference. The consensus was that there is just as much opportunity for misuse with the CDs as the web, and that it should be understood, whether the review is done with hard copy, CD, or web, that this is a confidential process. The message should be made clear to all involved that “copying or repeating any comments or part of the casefile is considered faculty misconduct and may be cause for termination.” Communicating confidential RPT Committee discussions to a candidate can be as big a confidentiality lapse as sharing information from the file. Great damage is done through this kind of misbehavior and the message should be the same as above.

Mentoring – make opportunities to talk to junior faculty about their progress. Spend time talking together, look over their CV, and give advice. Junior faculty need to know what the expectations are. If there are concerns with their progress, put them in writing so that they are clear to the junior faculty member. “We want them to succeed.” Coming up early for tenure requires defensible reasons.

ENAC
The spring ENAC meeting will be held on April 25; it will take the place of the April Executive Committee Meeting.

It is important for engineering to be engaged with ENAC. The whole point is to learn from the members’ outside perspectives. Make sure to try to draw out of the members things we might not see – we don’t want a discussion amongst ourselves. The theme will be on issues around growth. The chairs/director and partners are invited to a tour of the Real Salt Lake Stadium. New ENAC members are David Layton, president of Layton Construction, and Jim Jackson, deputy director of Los Alamos Labs for 12 years.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.