Present: Richard Brown, Patrick Tresco, Michael Kay, Jeff Weiss (BIO), Jaye Magda (ChE), Paul Tikalsky, Marc Bodson, Martin Berzins, Ray Levey, Vicki Jensen

Excused: Milind Deo, Rick Rabbitt, JoAnn Lighty, Marilyn Davies, Sandy Bruhn

Dean Brown welcomed Jaye Magda, representing ChE, and Jeff Weiss, representing BIO, to the meeting. Milind Deo and JoAnn Lighty are attending a meeting on the “Future of Coal in a Carbon-Constrained World” hosted by the Utah Clean Coal Program. We are very fortunate to have Ray Levey, Director of the Energy & Geoscience Institute (EGI) here today because he also needs to be at that meeting.

Ray Levey gave a PowerPoint overview of EGI. EGI is a diversified, self-supporting, non-profit institute in the College of Engineering focused on research in Fossil Energy, Geothermal, and Carbon Engineering. EGI started in 1973 and has been located in Research Park for the past ten years. It is affiliated most closely with CvEE, but also with other Engineering and Mines and Earth Sciences departments. Through cooperative agreements with universities and research institutes, government agencies and laboratories, and national energy companies, the Institute undertakes a broad range of multidisciplinary projects on all seven continents. They have offices in Calgary, Houston, Slovakia, Sydney, and Tripoli. The University of Utah was recently awarded a software gift (valued at $21.2 million) from Landmark; the software is used to help find oil and gas resources.

EGI researchers teach GIS courses for CvEE and courses in Geology/Geophysics. EGI currently has more than 20 graduate students, but during the academic year there are as many as 40. Students work on their own research and EGI research.

EGI would like to see faculty assistantships between them and the College, which would provide research opportunities between the two faculties. Paul Tikalsky commented that Brian McPherson, associate professor in CvEE, is also research assistant professor in EGI. He has a lab on campus and teaches. CVEE has four or five tenure track faculty interacting with EGI. This has been a great benefit for faculty and graduate students.

Dean Brown stated that EGI is one of the gems of the College.
**Announcements/Updates**

**Nominations for College Outstanding Awards**
Nominations for College Outstanding Teacher, TA, Staff, and Service Awards are due to the dean’s office by Monday, June 16. At least one nomination for each category is needed from each department. The question was raised about the eligibility of former recipients for the Outstanding Teacher nomination. This was discussed at the March 17, 2006 Executive Committee Meeting. The Minutes read in part: “There was a discussion on how often the same person can be nominated for the Outstanding Teacher Award. It was agreed that a person is eligible to receive this award every sixth year, but there must be five years between awards. There is no such limit for the TA Award.”

**Security**
Dean Brown reported on the security breach in the Warnock Engineering Building on May 18. The intruder picked the lock on the door from the hallway to the Eccles Boardroom and went into the front reception area. Bioengineering on the second floor was also broken into—three projectors, a lap top, and t-shirts were taken. The Key Shop has installed plates on the doors with card readers for extra security.

**USTAR Status**
The programming phase of the USTAR Building was completed in December. Interdisciplinary Quad Master Planning committees were formed in January—the Committees completed their work in March. Selection of the detailed architectural design team will be made this summer. Two weeks ago the USTAR Authority met and agreed to the University’s proposal to use some of the funding connected to the USTAR Building for infrastructure. The U expects to soon have commitments for $26.25M of the required $30M matching funds. The rest of the money must be raised by the time ground is broken. The U has selected five new half-size USTAR teams. “Digital Media” and “Micro/Nano Systems Integration and Reliability” were proposed by SoC and ECE faculty, respectively. Each of the five groups will present to the USTAR Hiring Committee on June 27 for final approval.

**Space Update**
Dean Brown stated that we are focused on putting together enough money to start the Kennecott remodel, with the first phase being the northeast side. The architects have been studying options. Meetings will be held with ME faculty to figure out how to design the space. Several relocations are pending: SCI space in MEB has been renovated for Jay LePreau’s group to occupy, they are currently in the penthouse. ChE faculty will move to the penthouse. The CVEE student lab in CME will relocate to EMRL. The Traffic Lab will move to the vacated CVEE student lab in CME. All of this happening in a timely manner is dependant upon Jay LePreau’s move. There will be a major push to get this accomplished as many people are affected.
**Discussion Items**

**Research Issues**
Patrick Tresco and Laura Butler, PR Specialist, have met individually with the chairs/director about how the College can help promote their departments’ research through PR. Dean Brown expressed his appreciation to the chairs/director for their involvement. Other ways to help support research are: 1) form a faculty advisory group to work with Patrick, and 2) hold periodic town hall meetings to give faculty updates on research issues and to encourage multi-investigator proposals. Patrick commented that we need to think about what our future infrastructure needs will be. The Committee was supportive of these ideas. Dean Brown asked the chairs/director to let him know whether they would like to serve on this committee or designate another faculty member to represent their unit. Paul Tikalsky and Kent Udell said they would serve.

Patrick will send an e-mail to all College faculty asking for their inputs on research strategy and infrastructure. He invited the chairs to suggest faculty who may want to be more involved with college-wide research issues.

**Graduate Student Recruiting**
Dean Brown showed a breakdown of our US News College ranking. Our overall rank (out of 192 Ph.D.-granting schools) is 59. Our worst metric is selectivity of graduate students. We are ranked 96th in this category. We will follow up to see whether the departments report the number of pre-applicants or the number who actually pay the application fee. The single biggest challenge we have today at the U is quality of Ph.D. students. Recently, one of our departments had two PhD students that flunked out of school; support of these students cost the faculty/department a considerable amount of money. We would be much better off to invest our resources recruiting better students.

Some good things are happening around the College in graduate student recruiting, but we need to do much better overall. Suggestions for more effective recruiting next year are:

1. Have individual faculty proactively recruit applicants.
2. Have departments advertise on the web and with posters.
3. Exchange lists of top students with other universities and contact those students by e-mail and US mail.
4. Focus on other schools in the Mountain West.
5. Hold a joint graduate student visitation day for the whole College.
6. Give students individualized attention when they visit.
7. Guarantee five years of funding (assuming the student is making good progress).
8. Obtain more first-year graduate fellowships (Patrick is leading this discussion with upper administration).

Dean Brown feels strongly about this, and is willing to contribute College money to support a College-wide recruiting day. He asked the Committee to discuss the joint recruiting day with their faculty and send him a note with their thoughts.
Martin Berzins stated that we could do much better in recruiting and looking after graduate students coming from local industry.

**Tuition Benefit Program**

Dean Brown reported that at the CAD Meeting held on May 15 there was a discussion about the Graduate Student Tuition Benefit Program. The College of Engineering receives more than $2M/yr from this Program. Most of our recipients are RAs and TAs. We also have some GAs. When this program began, hopes were to grow RAs, but that number has stayed about the same. GAs have really grown, and the Graduate School is concerned about that. Michael Kay will gather information on the name and department of each GA. GFs in Engineering are usually students on Wayne Brown Fellowships. The tuition benefit for RAs is being funded by returned overhead. The tuition benefits for GAs and GFs come from another line in the U budget. The Graduate School is thinking about dropping support for GAs (this may be a year away).

**Engineering Education in Utah**

Dean Brown gave an update on the Utah Commissioner of Higher Education study of engineering education. He thanked everyone who helped with the Engineering Consultants who visited on April 21 as part of this study.

To the extent that we believe the state should invest in the U for engineering education, rather than spawning new engineering programs, we must be willing to provide more distance education. Distance education may make it so that students can stay at feeder schools for another term. Dean Brown asked the chairs/director to talk to their faculty about courses that could be offered to SUU, Dixie, etc. Students who take remote courses from the U are more likely to transfer to the U to finish their degrees.

Marc Bodson is concerned that our distance education courses are not more visible (they are run through Continuing Education). The instructors need some rewards for the extra effort required to teach the remote students. Distance courses should be listed in the University Course Catalog with an indication that they are offered through distance education. Distance education courses require an additional fee. Dean Brown will explore with Dave Pershing options related to distance education.

Dean Brown stated that to date our distance education courses have been focused on MS students, but we should now look at offering Sophomore courses. He asked the Committee members to think of courses that might make sense to offer to other schools as well as to industry.

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm.