Present: Richard Brown, Milind Deo, Patrick Tresco, Marilyn Davies, Michael Kay, Rick Rabbitt, Geoff Silcox (ChE), Paul Tikalsky, Marc Bodson, Anil Vikar, Kent Udell, Martin Berzins, Phil Smith, Sandy Bruhn, Vicki Jensen

Excused: JoAnn Lighty

Dean Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The first agenda item was an introduction by Phil Smith to the Institute for Clean & Secure Energy (ICSE).

**Presentation**

ICSE grew from a long tradition of combustion research at the University of Utah beginning in the 1950s and continuing to today’s level of 55 faculty, staff, and students. It was formed from the combination of several strong research programs that focused on combustion simulation, analysis, and experiments. In 2004, the University of Utah officially recognized ICSE as a permanent institute.

Expenditures over the last two years have been about $8M per year, from:

$2M/year UHOC (Utah Heavy Oil and Clear Coal Program)
$2M/year UC3 (Utah Clean Coal Program)
$1M/year C-Safe
$3M/year other programs.

Interdisciplinary is key to ICSE. Thirty faculty are affiliated with the Institute, the majority of them being from various departments within the College of Engineering, and others being from Physics, Chemistry, Law, and Economics.

Part of the Institute’s strategic plan is to stay in communication with their stakeholders and community. Public forums are frequently held along with annual forums and conferences. On May 23, ICSE hosted a conference “Future of Coal in a Carbon-Constrained World” sponsored by the US Department of Energy and the University’s office of the VP for Research.

ICSE was commissioned by the US Department of Energy to prepare a technical, economic, and legal assessment of North American Heavy Oil, Oil sands, and oil shale resources. This was published in 2007.
ICSE has international programs and sends graduate and undergraduate students on internships to China, Europe, South America, and Canada.

Challenges for ICSE are a lack of U.S. Energy Policy, a need for stronger interdisciplinary policies at the University, and a lack of space. Dean Brown commented that the College has recently provided space in MEB for a couple of ICSE people and it does have a long-term plan to locate ICSE and ChE together in MEB.

The individual faculty member decides which unit a project goes through—the institute, the department, or another location. F&A is distributed as follows: 50% to the University, 25% to the College, 6% to the PI, 2% to the home department, and 17% to ICSE. Institutes do not receive state funding. F&A is put towards staff support. Some of the money was recently used to help support faculty start-up packages.

Dean Brown commended ICSE for being a very good College citizen.

**Announcements/Updates**

**VP for Research**
Dean Brown announced that Tom Parks has been appointed as the University’s new VP for Research. This is a full time job; Tom will be stepping down as chair of the Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy after 15 years and as director of the Brain Institute.

**Outstanding College Awards**
Nominations for College Outstanding Teacher, TA, Staff and Service awards are due Monday, June 30. Dean Brown called for more nominations. He suggested that it would be good to have someone in each department looking for opportunities to recognize our faculty through national awards. People appreciate recognition for their hard work, and this is an important part of building our reputation.

**Director of Nuclear Center**
Melinda Krahenbuhl, Director of the Nuclear Center, has left the U to work for Dow Chemical in Michigan where she is in charge of their reactor. Mike Slaughter has assumed the role of interim CENTER Director.

Dean Brown announced that we have received an Endowed Professorship donation from Energy Solutions which will help us hire a couple of faculty into the nuclear engineering area.

**Executive Committee Minutes**
There have been previous discussions regarding faculty having access to the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes. We want faculty to know what is being discussed so they can be more engaged with the College. The Minutes will be posted on the College website under Faculty Resources.
Hiring Season Results
The chairs gave an update on their recent hires:

Kent Udell, ME
ME had four open positions. Two faculty were hired.

Anil Virkar, MSE
Two new faculty have been hired. One is a joint hire with ECE and the other is part of the USTAR cluster with Marc Porter of ChE and Chemistry.

Geoff Silcox, ChE
An offer letter has been sent to a faculty candidate for the one position ChE had open.

Rick Rabbitt, BIO
BIO has three open positions. One verbal offer has recently been made.

Martin Berzins, SofC
SofC has hired four new tenure-track faculty (two of whom are USTAR) and a lecturing faculty member. Discussions are on-going with two other candidates.

Paul Tikalsky, CVEE
CVEE has three openings but did not hire this year. Ads were posted for associate and full professor positions. Next year the ad will be changed to include assistant professor candidates.

Marc Bodson, ECE
ECE has hired two and one-half (one joint hire with MSE). Two of these are USTAR positions (one in SCI). Several candidates are still being recruited.

Dean Brown said that it has been a great hiring season and we still have positions to fill.

Marilyn Davies commented that we hope to replicate the Energy Solutions model for future endowed professorships. With the new University campaign we should think creatively about open positions and their alignment with companies such as L-3, ATK, and Micron that might support endowed chairs.

Marc Bodson raised the question of how we should manage USTAR faculty who are strong in a research area for which there is little student interest. Dean Brown said that we will hire in areas in which we want to grow. Last year we received a student petition requesting a nuclear minor. The job market and salaries for nuclear engineers are phenomenal, even for BS graduates. As students learn about the opportunities, there will be interest. We are trying to be aligned with the opportunities for graduates; to the extent that the interests of students and companies are aligned, all will benefit.
Discussion Items

Report on Engineering Education in Utah
Included with the agenda was a copy of the letter from Dave Buhler, Interim Commissioner of Higher Education, accompanying the report submitted by the consultants who were selected to meet with representatives of the higher education institutions to evaluate the need for engineering programs (specifically at Weber and UVSC) in addition to those at the U and USU. Dean Brown thanked everyone for their help in planning for the consultants’ visit which contributed to the good report. The report is now posted on the State Board of Regents website along with a request for comments on the proposal. A copy of the report has been sent to the College ENAC and IAB members along with an invitation to send their comments. The report will also be sent to our legislators. Dean Brown asked the chairs/director to let their friends in industry and on their advisory boards know about the report and ask them to send their comments. Milind Deo commented that technicians are also an important part of a company and the schools offering those programs should feel good about their roles.

Engineering Initiative Future
Dean Brown opened a discussion on the future of the Engineering Initiative (EI) and our strategy for moving it forward. There are some challenges. Neither our graduation numbers nor those of other schools seem to have gone up this year; since the justification for the EI has been to grow capacity, this is a problem. Last year nobody on the Executive Appropriations Committee was willing to make the EI a priority. Unless we have a champion in leadership, it does not make sense to pursue the EI this year. Our most vocal supporter who fits this description is Kurt Bramble. He and other legislators will not support an EI unless it has a match. The U and USU are having a hard time matching. Dean Brown has suggested matching EI money with the private funds we raise. In the past, the TIAB has given most of the money appropriated by the legislature to the U and USU because they were investing in engineers who they felt would make a difference. This has changed the way the smaller schools view the EI. The College has received about $4M from the state which has been matched by the U (some of this match was productivity money). The EI has given us the opportunity to maintain communication with the Governor’s office and legislators. The EI will not be successful unless the university presidents are willing to make it a priority. Dean Brown asked the Committee members to send him their thoughts about how we should proceed.

Outreach
Dean Brown said he is very pleased with the College outreach efforts. Since January presentations have been made to more than 17,000 students and 130 visits have been made to schools or they have come here. This will bear fruit. Several camps are scheduled this summer that will help bring in students.

Improving Climate to Help Retain Students, Especially Women Students
Cindy Furse, professor in ECE, met with women engineering students to get their input on the climate for women students in the College. Included with the agenda was a copy
of her report titled “Suggestions for Improving the Climate for Women Students in the College of Engineering.” Retaining students is an even more effective method for increasing graduation than recruiting students. Most of what we do to create a better climate for women students would also be effective for men. Some of the ideas that students felt would improve the climate and help with retention are:

More informal socials between faculty and students  
Faculty knowing each student’s name  
Faculty who give the impression they enjoy teaching  
Feeling safe in the building, especially at night

Dean Brown commented that the more we can communicate with students about the good things happening in the College the more pride they have in where they are. We will include students and their parents in newsletter mailings. Items that are just for women should be communicated through SWE.

Kent Udell asked about the possibility of upgrading the cell phone coverage on the first floor of MEB. This would help contribute to a feeling of safety.

Nuclear Engineering and Science Minor  
Included with the agenda was a draft of requirements for a Nuclear Engineering and Science Minor. Nuclear Engineering currently has no undergraduate degrees; this would be a new minor. Dean Brown asked the chairs/director to please take a look at the list of courses and thinking through their own curriculum, see if any should be removed or added. The required courses should be technical. It would be beneficial to have one set of requirements for all of Engineering and Science. Physics and Chemistry may also be quite involved in this minor. Dean Brown asked the chairs/director to send their comments to Paul Tikalsky. A revised course offering will be created and submitted for faculty vote and then through the University process for approval. We hope to have the new minor in pace by January or August 2009.

Graduation Guarantee  
Milind Deo reported that over the past several months there have been discussions about the Graduation Guarantee. There are 3 components:

1. What will the contract look like
2. Tools that will be used to make sure this process is smooth
3. Administrative support

Year End Balances  
Michael Kay reported that he will soon have year end reports to the chairs/director.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.