COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

September 10, 2010

Present: Richard Brown, Patrick Tresco, Milind Deo, Michael Kay, Marilyn Davies, Al Davis, Paul Tikalsky, Gianluca Lazzi, Anil Virkar, Tim Ameel, Sandy Meek, Sandy Bruhn

Excused: Rick Rabbitt, Martin Berzins, Vicki Jensen

Announcements/Updates

- The ribbon cutting for the Meldrum Civil Engineering Building has been moved to Thursday, October 28, at 11:00 A.M. A lot of alumni are coming.

- The College of Engineering Awards Banquet is Thursday, October 28, at 6:30 P.M. in the 6th floor Varsity Room in the Rice Eccles Stadium Tower.

- The next ENAC meeting is November 8th & 9th in Las Vegas, Nevada.

- The art displayed in the Dean’s Office is courtesy of Bret Webster, an alum and IAB member. Photography is his hobby and he generously (materials cost only) gave these pictures showcasing southern and northern Utah scenery to Engineering

Review

New Faculty Orientation: Vicki Jensen sent a list of attendees to the chairs. The Dean asked the chairs for feedback or suggestions on how to make this better. What the chairs heard from their faculty was “great,” “useful,” “beneficial.” The new faculty orientation will be an annual event.

A big thanks goes to Milind Deo and Patrick Tresco. A lot of work goes into an orientation like this, especially the first year. Job well done!

Freshman Convocation: Seemed to go well and attendance was much higher this year. We need to continue to think of ways to let students know they really should come to this. Dean Brown gave the students practical advice, including the fact that they should not plan to work a lot of hours while pursuing an engineering/CS degree. College and department scholarships and a college low-interest loan program are available that would allow a student to concentrate more on his/her education.

One suggestion for the future: to encourage attendance at department sessions, don’t bring out pizza until after the department visits.
Discussion Items

Terminology Per a discussion at the Dean’s Council, the term “inclusion” is preferable to “diversity” and better describes our aims.

Research Space The University has an old TV broadcast relay station building available as research space to anyone who wants it. It’s located on the top of the Oquirrh Mountains.

Strategic Planning Themes to include in your strategic planning discussions:

1. “Signature Experience” – how can more of our students have life changing experiences during their education in the College of Engineering.

2. Recruitment and retention: the use of scholarships and the work of our outreach team continue to be effective at recruiting more undergraduate students. The first key to recruiting better good graduate students is to get more students to apply. Ask faculty to use their network of fellow professors at other institutions to get names of potential grads. The College is working on an ad designed for Snowbird to capture the family skiing audience and let them know that a world class university is right here in Salt Lake next to the world class skiing.

Math The College would like to see engineering math taught in 4 semesters -- 2 semesters of calculus, 2 semesters of advanced math. This would be a math track for engineering students that looks like the Honors math track, and in which the students are maintained as an engineering cohort. If Chairs can schedule some time in department meetings, Milind Deo or Sarang Joshi will come to discuss the math situation.

Productivity Review The productivity budget model is going to be reviewed this year. We are more dependent than ever on tuition, so the model is not expected to change very much.

Salary Program The upper administration feels that we can't go another year without a salary program for faculty and staff. The question is, where will the money come from? President Young is making this a high priority.

Retirements Lorris Betz, Susan Olson, Paul Brinkman, and John Francis are all retiring this year.

12-month Appointments Barbara Nielson has confirmed that faculty wanting to switch to a 12-month appointment may do so effective January 1, 2011.

There has been some confusion/misunderstanding of the basic obligations of a 9-month appointment set-up as 9/12. Dean Brown will send out a memo on the obligations so there is a clear understanding on everyone’s part.

Vandalism in Meldrum Civil Engineering Building Over the Labor Day weekend, someone pulled the emergency shower levers on the lower floor of the new building and the water ran, at 20 gallons a minute, for at least 10 hours before it was discovered. New flooring, dry walls, new furniture — all ruined — thousands of dollars of damage. In
response, the College will be installing individual flow sensors on every shower in our buildings. As soon as a shower is pulled, security, EHS, and the College will be notified. The College is also considering putting cameras in hallways, with signage indicating 24 hour monitoring. As in Warnock, the other College buildings will also be posted stating that after-hours use of College buildings is only for engineering purposes.

Michael Kay sent out an email regarding the vandalism and asking, as a general safety rule, for people to watch their surroundings and if they see anything suspicious or that makes them feel uncomfortable, call and report it. We want to make sure this is a safe place to be.

**Law Courses** It is good professional preparation for our students get some business and law exposure. Lee Hollaar (CS) teaches a 3 credit hour course every other year that covers patents, torts, liability, employment contracts, and copyrights. ME and CvEE have similar courses which count as technical electives, but for the other departments’ students, Lee’s course is an opportunity to get this preparation. The onus is on the departments to make sure that the course may be counted toward degree requirements, and also to help Lee advertise the class.

Paul Tikalsky, Chair of CvEE Department gave a presentation on his department. On the whole the department is on the rise. U.S. News rankings place the department at 65, up from 78 in 2010. FE scores are increasing. 67.4% of University grads passed their PE vs the national average of 45.6%. BS and PhD degrees have increased and undergrad and grad enrollment has increased. In the area of research activity, there are 72 ongoing research projects, $6.2M in research contracts, $1.8M in research expenditures, 69 fully funded graduate assistantships, 45 PhD candidates, 6 patent disclosures/patents, and 71 technical papers. One new faculty member has been hired, Luis Ibarra. His research areas are in Seismic design and performance methodologies for nuclear facilities and couples mechanisms in nuclear-waste containers.

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 P.M.