Announcements/Updates

- The Dedication Ceremony and Ribbon Cutting for the Floyd and Jeri Meldrum Civil Engineering Building will be held on Thursday, October 28, at 11:00 am.

- The College Awards Banquet will be held on Thursday, October 28, at 6:30 pm in the Rice Eccles Stadium. As of today, 333 people will be attending.

- The ENAC Meeting will be held on November 8 and 9, 2010 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Marilyn Davies will send out a memo with last minute instructions. This will be Ted Jacobsen’s first meeting as chair of ENAC.

- Evolving Financial Model. Dean Brown reviewed the evolving financial model regarding USTAR in an effort to keep everyone current on the discussions. Maintenance of the USTAR Building will be paid out of general overhead return. Staff that work for USTAR research groups such as the brain institute, will be supported by the research group they work for just like non-USTAR staff throughout the College. Dean Brown has been a proponent of treating USTAR faculty just like regular faculty, but that will not quite be the case. For non-USTAR faculty members who are housed in the USTAR building, there will not be a skim on overhead return. There will be a 9% skim for USTAR faculty housed in a College facility and 29% skim for USTAR faculty housed in the USTAR Building. The purpose for this overhead skim is so SVP Pershing has monies to help meet the needs of USTAR faculty. The College does not pay for USTAR faculty start up packages like we do for non-USTAR faculty.

- RPT. Dean Brown made a few comments about RPT. Our goal is to make this College the very best college that we can. Department chairs have an important role in the RPT process—they are the final defender of quality in their departments. A chair isn’t required to attend their department RPT meetings, but can if invited. Even if the department chair is in the meeting, the RPT chair leads the discussion, not the Department chair. It takes a strong RPT chair to keep faculty engaged and the discussion focused. Much of the power in the RPT process resides with the faculty. The faculty functions as a group to evaluate their peers and make a decision on each case. It is an evaluative process and one by which the quality of the college is determined for the next 30-40 years.

The role of the department chair is to put the department RPT committee’s discussion and votes into perspective in some sense. The chair has the final vote coming out of the department in maintaining quality. If there is a case where there is little faculty support, the chair needs to think about what is going to happen in the steps that follow in the RPT
process. It would be difficult to support a case that did not have strong support from the department RPT committee. We would like to have a faculty composed of people who clearly made tenure.

The role of the College RPT Committee is primarily to look at the department process making sure the process is not arbitrary and capricious and that policy was followed. Their vote reflects this charge. They do not do a standalone evaluation of the case.

The dean has the last say in the College in RPT cases. Patrick Tresco (Associate Dean for Research) and Dean Brown review each case together; this has been a tradition in the College for years. If there are special circumstances in a case such as mixed votes, hired with tenure, etc. it goes to UPTAC before SVP Pershing.

The retention vote is primarily meant to give young faculty members strong guidance as to what they need to do to continue on the tenure track. It is in the faculty member’s best interest to pay attention to the recommendations of the department chair, College RPT committee and dean if they want to be successful in attaining tenure. Dean Brown said these decisions are not easy. It is the hardest thing he has to do. He expressed his appreciation to the chairs for the work they do on the RPT cases.

Discussion Items

ECE Department Presentation
Gianluca Lazzi, chair of ECE, gave a PowerPoint presentation on the State of the ECE Department. ECE is ranked 53 in US News & World Report. The increase in ranking is due partly to increased media exposure. The department is benefiting greatly from the recent growth with USTAR faculty--in January ECE will have 28 tenure or tenure track faculty, 7 of which are USTAR faculty. In 2009-2010 research expenditures totaled over $5.7M. PhD enrollment is up and the number of PhD graduates this year increased to 12. 80 MS students are enrolled. Publication output has increased and over 15 companies were started by ECE faculty. Each faculty member is assigned one administrative assistant (the department has 3 AA’s) to support faculty on proposal preparation, post-award accounting, and in their other responsibilities.

Post-Award Accounting
Dean Brown said that Cynthia Furse, Assoc VP for Research, has organized a committee on which Michael Kay serves, that is developing a plan that would make the project accounting and management tools more user-friendly for faculty. A review of the tools is currently under way. In the meantime, there is a new and simplified financial report in the Financial Information Library (FIL) for faculty. This is accessed through the Campus Information System (CIS) under Financial & Business Services.

MD/PhD Program
Dick Norman, Distinguished Professor of Bioengineering, is the point person for the College in interacting with the medical school on the MD/PhD program. Every year the medical school receives applications to this program. Most applicants have a biology background; some are interested in receiving a Ph.D. in engineering. This year there is one with a Bioengineering background from UC Davis, one with an EE background from Stanford, and one with a physics background from the U. Bioengineering already participates in this program. Dean Brown said it will make little sense to propose this MD/PhD program unless the department is set up for it. Dean Brown will send a memo to the College faculty to let them know about this opportunity. This
program would have some similarity to our current MS/MBA program in that certain courses would satisfy both engineering and medical school requirements.

**Engineering Short Courses**
Dean Brown asked the Committee if they felt it would make sense for the College to offer short courses. The School of Business has offered these courses for some time and they have done well financially. Dean Brown reviewed the history of short courses in engineering. There was a time when not many short courses were offered. A couple of brand name schools started offering them. Because the courses were lucrative, other schools started offering them and the market became saturated. The trend has changed—would it be to our benefit to offer short courses. Are there topics that would show decent size enrollments? Short courses are driven by technology or big corporations so the people more likely to get engaged are upper management. Dean Brown said we would like to set this up so it benefits the department as well as the professor. Several topics were suggested that it was felt by the group would draw a good attendance. Dean Brown said this will be an item for discussion at the next IAB Meeting.

**NRC Rankings**
The NRC rankings are published. Each department should review the results to see what can be learned from them.

**Smart Goals, Development Targets, Capacity Assessment**
Dave Pershing, SVP for Academic Affairs, has requested a one page list of Smart Goals, one to two pages of Development Targets for the year, and a one page Capacity Assessment.

According to demographic predictions, in the next 5-10 years, Utah’s college enrollment will grow by 100,000 students. How many more students could Engineering handle with our current funding? Dean Brown said in his analysis ME is saturated; BIO is very close to the maximum for their growth plan; but ECE, CVE, ChE and MSE could handle more students. Dean Brown asked the chairs to send him a paragraph on their department’s capacity for growth in the context of no new resources. The results will be made available to SVP Pershing, who will pass them on to the Commissioner. The most cost-effective way to handle more students will be to build on the strong foundation we have at the U.

Deans Brown, Tresco, and Deo have met and created a list of focus items:

- Faculty facilities: Meldrum Civil Building, USTAR Building, Kennecott remodel and ME’s occupancy.
- The University’s signature experience for students.
- Retention - Dean Brown proposed that the deans and department chairs have a meeting with our presidential scholars, honors at entrance scholars, and early assurance students to get them connected.
- Mentoring – it is important for every department to have an active UG and graduate student group to connect the students socially and give them moral support.
- Need for more quality graduate students.
- Improve the research environment.
- Possibility of an interdisciplinary innovation center.

Dean Brown asked the chairs to think about what we ought to focus on as a College and send him their thoughts.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm