Announcements/Updates

- The new University president will be announced today at 2:00 pm.

- College of Engineering FARs are due March 1, 2012.

- The College Teaching Workshop organized by Milind Deo will be held February 6 and 7. The number attending so far is: ECE 10, ChE 4, ME 6. Dean Brown suggested that if the chairs/director have teachers whose course evaluations are low, they should be encouraged to attend to help them improve their teaching skills.

- The College Fly-In is on Friday, February 24, 2012.

- JoAnn Lighty announced that Tom Peterson, Assistant Professor-Engineering Directorate at the National Science Foundation, will be the lecturer at the ChE Distinguished Lecturer Series on January 31, 2012, at 10:45 am in L140 WEB.

- Dean Brown gave an update on the Engineering Initiative (EI). UTC has prioritized the EI as their top request. The EI did not make it into the Governor’s budget; however, we have heard that the Governor would like to support the EI. We are hoping that will happen but it will depend probably on what the revenues look like for the state. The legislative report comes out in February.

- Dean Brown reported that Marilyn Davies and he had a meeting with Senate President Waddoups on January 18. Dean Brown and Marilyn also met with Mel Brown, Chair of the Executive Appropriations Committee. Meetings with legislative leadership will continue to be held. Jason Perry, University VP for Government Relations, attends most of the meetings with us. He is a great advocate because he knows the people and supports the EI. The legislative session starts on Monday, January 30.

- Eric Eddings gave an update on research issues:

  Cayuse is now up and running. It is accessed through CIS. Introduction-to-Cayuse classes are being offered. Administrators who prepare proposals should certainly
attend. Go to the following link to sign up for a class: https://education.research.utah.edu/class_details.jsp?offeringId=187. Training sessions will be scheduled when enough people sign up.

SciVal is a program set up to allow faculty to receive automatic notification of research funding opportunities. OSP has put together a list of 800 faculty across campus based on funding received over the past 3 years. This list includes most of our faculty. More faculty can be added. We will work with department administrators to make sure new faculty are included. This process should be finalized in the next week or two.

ARUP is interested in meeting with our faculty to discuss research challenges they have and to talk with faculty about their research expertise. They have a list of topics they are interested in pursuing. They have set two different dates for this meeting, March 7 or 13. March 7 was the preferred date. Dean Brown suggested that if the chairs/director know of other organizations that we ought to be doing something like this with to let Eric or him know.

Discussion Items

Scholarships/Fellowships
Changing the award value for Brown Fellowships - Dean Brown said that last year our success with the Wayne Brown Fellowships was not very good. More than ten offers were made, four accepted and two have since left the program, leaving only two students with the College’s top fellowship. At a previous Executive Committee Meeting it was agreed to not make offers on Browns until after the Fly-In so faculty have an opportunity to meet with students and then decide to whom they should offer the fellowship. The amount should probably be increased because the current amount of $20,000 isn’t competitive. The College has provided $7,500 the first and second year and the departments have made up the difference with $12,500 for the first and second year. Dean Brown suggested the total amount be increased to $30,000. The College support would go from $15,000 to $22,500 over 2 years and the department contribution would increase to $18,750 each year.

Increasing the award amount for departmental scholarships - There are a number of students who receive multiple scholarships. To the extent possible it may be beneficial to increase the value of departmental scholarships, keeping in mind the donor’s requests, so that a given student would be supported by one larger scholarship instead of multiple smaller scholarships. Perhaps a donor would consider increasing their scholarship if we let them know that tuition has increased and to help compensate for this increase we would like to increase the amount of their scholarship. Having one donor would likely lead to a closer connection between the student and scholarship donor.

Merit-based college scholarships - For merit-based College of Engineering Scholarships, all incoming (Freshmen or transfer) students will be viewed as a single pool, so as to reward merit uniformly without regard to their program of study. GPAs for students from different schools
can be adjusted based on performance of previous students from those schools when we have statistically-reliable data.

For merit scholarships given to current U of U students (where U of U major GPAs are used) a normalized GPA can be calculated to adjust for differences in student quality in different departments, and to adjust for varying grading policies in different departments. It would be calculated by multiplying the student’s GPA by two factors: 1) the ratio of average high school GPA for the student’s department over average high school GPA for the entire college, and 2) the ratio of average GPA in major courses across all departments over GPA in major courses in the student’s department. We do not have access to all of this data yet, so cannot implement this adjustment in the current year, but we hope to have it in future years.

Scholarship applications are due February 15 - We need to make sure students know about available scholarships and encourage them to apply.

Math Curriculum
Milind Deo gave an update on the Engineering Math Curriculum. He asked the chairs/director to send him an email if they have any comments or changes. The syllabus has been finalized and Milind will send a copy to the chairs/director. A textbook has been selected. The pilot will be launched next fall. There will be about 150 students in the first section of the class. Milind asked the chairs/director to let him know if the departments want any of their students in the pilot program.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.