College of Engineering
Executive Committee Meeting
February 15, 2013
1:00 – 3:00 pm
Eccles Boardroom

Guests: Geoff Silcox
Excused: JoAnn Lighty, Monica Heaton

Announcements/Follow-up

Political/funding Landscape Reference points
Dean Brown's shared some brief points from the ASEE Deans Council Public Policy Colloquium he attended in Washington, D.C. February 11-13, 2013.

Sequestration, NSF – the greatest concern is for funding of soft sciences. Six or seven new Manufacturing research centers are coming and we should think of a way to get involved if it becomes funded. They're taking a pretty broad view of what manufacturing is.

Consulting, Sick time, Vacation Reporting – The new process of faculty reporting went smoothly because the faculty was informed ahead of time. Communication with the faculty has been an important factor. We want our college to be in a position that when the federal auditors come in, we are doing everything we are supposed to be doing. Over time we may want to send reminders to the faculty about their time reporting.

Petroleum Engineering MS degree – The new degree passed the graduate council. Some of our Science and Mines colleagues were concerned about it being a master of science without a thesis, but in engineering, this is the practice at virtually all top universities. The objections were overcome.

Calendar

- Grad Recruiting Visit Feb 22-24, 2013
- Siciliano Forum March 5 – 12:30 Gould Auditorium
- Commencement May 2, 2013, 6:30 pm
- Convocation May 3, 2013, 4:30 – 6:15 pm

A reminder that the College of Business comes in after us. We need to stick to our schedule so that we are out on time and they can start preparing for the next group.

Discussion Items

Fellowship Requirements – Graduate Fellowships are for attracting PH.D students. They can be awarded to U of U BS or MS students if it will help the student decide to stay for a Ph.D. We are hoping to find at least five nominees per dept.

TA expectations and Office Hours – There's a concern that some courses do not have adequate TA office hours. It's important that the students have someone they can go to for help. One concern was that TA's hours are incompatible with students who are working off campus. It was suggested that a good rule of thumb is that for every credit hour hour of the course there should be an office hour.
We need to try to make convenient hours for the student such as an office hour right next to the class time. We want our students to feel well supported and that we want them to succeed and TA’s are a big part of that.

**Tutoring Center** – Our tutoring center seems to have become less effective. When it first started it was a hub of activity. We’ve had discussion with Outreach about how we can make it more effective. We don’t want the tutoring center to replace the job of TA’s but it can be part of an overall support system for our students. It’s been difficult to get volunteers because TA’s and students are both studying for finals at the same time.

*Discussion:*
*Stressing community service could be the way to get the tutoring center going again. We should expect that from our star students. Someone in the college should meet with the two honor groups to get it going again as this was a successful way to handle it in the past.*

**Consulting and IP Policies** – The University has a committee that has been working on consulting and intellectual property policy for the past year. The draft consulting policy looks good. It increases the allowance for faculty consulting from two to four days per month, putting the U in line with most research schools, and it clarifies a lot of issues related to consulting. It also kept the phrase “exclusive of weekends and holiday”. They are ready to take the draft to the senate.

The IP policy is almost a complete re-write. Several things have been clarified, however Dean Brown has serious concerns with four sections of the draft policy which would discourage commercialization, give the University the right to sit on IP disclosed by the faculty, and which define the commercialization structure at the U in a way that is inconsistent with our organization.

**2014 Budget Process** – Michael Kay went over the much expanded requirements of our budget report for this year.

**Physical Facilities** - Lighting controls in the large lecture halls are being changed. Room 1250 was just completed and rooms 2250, 1230, and 2230 will be completed next week.