College of Engineering
Executive Committee Meeting
January 17, 2014
1:00 – 3:00 pm
Eccles Boardroom

Excused: Ajay Nahata, Michael Barber

Announcements/Follow-up

- The women's nursing room will be located in 2165 MEB beginning March 1, 2014
- 2014-15 Sabbatical requests will be approved by Board of Trustees on February 11th. Notification will be sent to faculty members and departments soon after.

Calendar

- February 20-23 Graduate Recruiting weekend
- February 28th Off-cycle RPT requests
- March 3 Fellowship nominations
- March 3 Outstanding Student/Convocation Speaker nominations
- March 3 Honors list for convocation
- March 7 Regalia orders are due
- March 21 Auxiliary reviews and spreadsheet of actions
- March 15 FAR due date
- May 2 7:00 pm Convocation
- May 9 ENAC – will be a local meeting

Discussion Items

Since we met last in October, we’ve had our Faculty Teaching workshop. The faculty comments were positive. It’s an expensive workshop but it seems to be worth the cost and we should have it every couple of years. The instructor, Dr. Felder was very impressed with the enthusiasm and positive energy of our faculty.

Eric Eddings also organized a Research Workshop as a follow-up to the New Faculty Orientation. Attendance included both new and established faculty. The workshop covered information about working with the research infrastructure that would have been too detailed for the New Faculty Orientation.

Job Order Contracting

As a result of discussion in our Executive Committee, the university now has an official pilot program in job order contracting. Dean Brown met with Ruth Watkins and Mike Perez, and got agreement that the University should find a way to simplify the management of small projects. The College of Engineering will pilot Job Order Contracting with the ECE student center. The objective is to shorten time to completion and reduce soft costs of projects such as straightforward lab renovations that cost less than $250K.

Summary of Online Support at the University of Utah / Teaching & Learning Technologies (handout)

Many departments at the university are teaching resident students through on-line courses. Enrollment at the U in on-line courses has grown by a factor of 8 since 2000. Departments interested in teaching remotely can work
with the Teaching and Learning Technologies group. They have grants of up to $20K available for course development. Their video editing fees are very reasonable. All online programs are on canvas.

Chemical Engineering had 6 petroleum engineering classes on line this past fall, and they are working to have the whole program on-line in about a year and a half. Mechanical Engineering is still running their Systems Engineering Masters degree with Ben Goldberg’s course and several others on line. The School of Computing is planning to offer their Big Data curriculum on-line, and ECE is encouraging discussion within the department about on-line courses.

**Growth and Comparisons**

Despite the fact that the U of U graduated 103 more students than it did 2 years ago, the state’s schools as a whole have not met the Engineering Initiative goal of 150 more graduates per yr -- we are at 96. We cannot go back to the legislature to lobby for Engineering Initiative support until we achieve our commitment. This is a concern because we are constrained by what the other schools do.

Dean Brown showed slides of each department’s growth in graduates in the past ten years, and each department’s graduates per faculty member compared to the top 30 schools in the US and compared to the other Pac 12 schools (based upon the ASEE Databook). Janna will provide the Department chairs with information on how their research compares to this peer group.

The U of U College of Engineering should be the best that we can be in the role of the flagship state university. The State of Utah needs us to graduate more well-educated engineers and computer scientists. Non-thesis MS programs give us a number of advantages: a pool to draw Ph.D. students from; more highly-educated graduates to contribute to the local economy; and growth in the number of graduates. We have more than doubled the number of Ph.D. students in the college, but we need to continue to recruit Ph.D. students more effectively. There is no substitute for having our faculty produce high quality research.

The USTAR authority has been reorganized under former Lieutenant Governor Greg Bell. If you know of anyone who would be a good executive director please let Rich or Greg Bell know.

**Student financial support**

The University has money available to help with student financial support. To use this money, we will need to focus on getting donors to match this money. We do not want to leave money on the table but it does come with strings attached.

a. **Graduate Fellowships** ($300K total/yr. for 3 years, possibly up to 5 years)
   Engineering allocation: $31,671
   1:1:1 match Grad School, College, Donor = $95,013
   Fellowships have to be at least $15K/yr., carry tuition benefit
   Wayne Brown last year $157,500 from College (6 continuing students + 8 new students at $11,250/student)

b. **National Fellowships** through the college’s new Fellowship Office (Jamesina Simpson) has been a big success. We had more than 20 students in the college who applied for the NFS Scholarship which is very good. This will help to relieve some of the pressure on our faculty for supporting fellowships.

c. **Undergraduate Scholarships** (Access, Achievement, Completion).
   The College Match is 1:1 up to $5000.
   It is centrally administered by Mary Parker.
   The money has to be new money preferably by new donors.
   RFP will come out ($100K maximum request and must be college-level).
Tuition Benefit Issues

Because the college has so many Research Assistants, and therefore collects a good deal of money from the tuition waiver pool, the central administration has decided that we are getting more money from the overhead return than we deserve. A possible solution might be to reduce the credit hour requirement for a graduate student to be full-time from 9 credits to 3 credits. This is being discussed with Dave Kieda from the Graduate School.