College of Engineering
Executive Committee Meeting
December 19, 2014
1:00-3:00pm
Eccles Boardroom

Calendar
- December 29 Grades Due
- January 12 Classes Begin
- February 12-13 Organick Lecture, Farnam Jahanian
- February 19-22 Graduate Student Fly-In
- March 6 Linda Katehi Seminar
- May 8 9:00 am Engineering Convocation
- Teaching Workshop – Spring Break 2016

Announcements/Follow-up
- Defense Science Study Group, http://dssg.ida.org (Handout) Must be a US Citizen and have interest. The college would really like have a nomination.
- Diversity Hiring (Final) When your department is hiring and you pick a minority as your first choice, Administration will pay $75K of their on-going salary.
- Cheating Policies – This was a discussion at the July Executive Committee with an informative presentation about the School of Computing policy. Cheating policies were also mentioned at College Council. What follow-up has come from these discussions? Departments are encouraged to get a committee working to put a policy into place. Without a well-defined policy, it’s very difficult on the faculty member involved.
- Graduate Fellowship Donors – The Dean’s office is working on putting together the fellowships and trying to name the top fellowships for Donors. This is a one-time award for a first year, domestic, Ph.D. student.
- Scholarship Counselor for Engineering, Tina Redmond (tredmond@sa.utah.edu) is our new engineering counselor.
- University Strategic Planning Sessions for faculty and staff – As part of the University-level accreditation, we must have this type of exercise. It was scheduled for December but has been postponed until spring 2015.
- Academic Analytics – Ruth is using this tool to look at your departments. Academic Analytics is getting very detailed. You can look at faculty by rank and see what quintile they are in. It obtains its information by crawling the internet searching journals, funding, etc. If you see errors there are people you can contact to get the information corrected.
- Commendation on RPT schedule – all departments had their files to the College.
- Aditi Risbud is leaving the college in January.

Discussion Items
- University Budget Model Update (Process starts in January 2015) The change that is going to happen is not nearly as big as anticipated. It will not be an entirely performance driven model. When new money comes to the University, it will be distributed based upon the performance metrics (SCH, number of graduates, time to graduation, etc.), but the base budget will not be driven by these.
- Faculty Positions return to the College - Starting next year, when a faculty member vacates a position, it will go back to the College. Departments will have to request and justify getting the position back. The
College will provide funding for departments to run searches and to hire adjuncts to cover courses if the position is returned to the same department (the typical case). A form will be provided upon which to make the request for a position. It will ask for justification based upon the funding landscape in the proposed area, performance of our current faculty in that area, teaching needs in the area, etc.

- Informal Faculty Reviews will now be added to the new University RPT System, Equella. They will be forwarded to the Dean for review. Informal reviews will be archived and Equella will provide a link to them on formal review portfolios. Monica will send email to the departments with more information.

- Post-tenure Review Policy – Amy Wildermuth has organized a committee that will propose changes to policy related to post-tenure reviews. Larry DeVries is a member of the committee. This will strengthen the University’s ability to require faculty to contribute. The policy will have to be approved by the faculty senate.

- Career-line Faculty Classifications – When evaluating your career line faculty and adjunct faculty for reappointment this spring, please ensure that career line faculty are correctly classified. During a recent evaluation, it appeared there are a handful whose appointments should be changed to adjunct if renewed. Also please pay attention to adjunct faculty; If they’re not active, consider whether they should have the title. If they have a tenured appointment in another department, make sure that their adjunct rank is changed as their tenure-line rank is changed.

- Curricular Practical Training rules for Engineering Students: The International Office will now allow engineering students to sign up for CPT credit the semester after they do the internship.

- Optional Practical Training (OPT): This is a temporary employment benefit for F-1 students to gain practical experience in their field of study. OPT permits employment authorization for 1 year following the completion of a degree. Graduate students in STEM fields are eligible to extend OPT for an additional 17 months, as long as the student applies for the STEM extension prior to expiration of OPT.

- Foreign Student Policies - H-1B Visas for Post-docs and Faculty – It is recommended to use OPT before obtaining or committing to H-1B sponsorship. If a department has a Ph.D. student they would like to hire as a Postdoctoral Fellow, this should be done using OPT. With H-1B sponsorship, you agree to pay the worker’s salary for up to 6 years. Salary must provide benefits and be at the same rate as other US workers in the same position. The employer is required to pay the H-1B processing fees which are approximately $1,825. Expedited processing fees for an H-1B is an additional $1,225. An H-1B is employer specific and cannot be ported to another employer. If the employer terminates H-1B employee prior to the end of H-1B status, then they are obligated to pay for transportation to the H-1B worker’s home country. The H-1B petition requires the University to attest that we complying with federal export control laws. If a foreign national is exposed to research, it is deemed "export". If research is not public, it must be protected from the foreign national.

- Undergraduate Advising- Across the university, many have asked for more undergrad advisors as well as college advisors. Advisors can make a huge success to student success. The university has a program that they are pushing for advisors. A portion of an advisor’s salary would be paid by the central advising office, and the advisor would spend part of their time in the central office. Dianne Leonard is interested in having department advisors become familiar with more than one department, so that there is backup if some advisory is out. Advising is complex; the information given to students should be vetted by the Dept. Chair. It’s important to departments that they are consistent with the advice they are giving to the students.

- 2015 Legislative Issues:
  - The University Priorities are salary and University of Utah and Utah State University support of graduate education. Last year the big money went to bringing up the budget per student at smaller schools. This would be new money distributed on performance. Graduate degrees would dictate the amount of money we get.
  - Engineering Initiative – We will lobby for $2.5 to 5 million this year. Industry support is very strong.