College of Engineering
Executive Committee Meeting
July 17, 2015
1:00-3:00 pm
Eccles Boardroom

Excused: Eric Eddings

Calendar:
Mon. Aug 17  Orientation for New Faculty, 8:30-4:30, Eccles Board Room
Aug 18-20    Departmental Retreats
Fri. Aug 21  Fall Faculty & Staff Meeting, 2:00pm  3550 MEK
Sept 13-15   ABET Visit
Oct 9        ENAC Kennecott Ribbon Cutting

Announcement / Follow-up

ABET
Recently Ajay met with the ABET reviewers and talked about the logistics of their September visit and the preparations that need to be made in the departments and college.

Program evaluators will need online access to homework, six transcripts from each dept. with explanation of the transcripts. Departments are asked to prepare a space for the evaluator where s/he will have access to a computer, printer, text books, etc. Ajay will send an email to each department next week with more information and a rough draft schedule.

Department chairs are encouraged to discuss ABET at their upcoming retreats and educate the faculty that is deals with the undergrad program, not research. It will be important to the ABET visit that your department objectives be posted, the faculty know where they are and can talk about them.

Engineering Initiative
The official request of $1.8M ongoing and $.5M one time money has now gone to the Board of Regents. They will be meeting in a couple weeks. The college is interested in having the Policy Institute at the Business School do some analysis on the return on investment of the Engineering Initiative, and also establish irrefutable numbers on the demand for engineers in Utah.

Tuition Benefit Clarification
As a correction to the discussion at last month’s meeting; students will still need to sign up for 9 credit hours to get the tuition benefit. We hope this will be changed to three.
Discussion Items

Financial Issues
Departments’ F&A for last year was just sent out to depts. for review.

The Departments’ updated budget sheets will reflect their new hires and transfers, and should be out by the end of July. As a side-note, whatever was set aside for SCH will not change in the spring.

Math Review
A common theme with students who leave engineering is that they’re having trouble with Math. This is a big retention issue for us. Math short courses are offered through continuing education. Our students should be taking full opportunity of the math review courses; our advisors should be telling students that they need to take these courses. This is a resource that can be especially helpful to students who have been away for a while.

Most important Strategic Goals to improve national recognition:

Research Quality and Volume

The best metric for quality is publications.

We increased research expenditures dramatically for about eight years but have stagnated the past few years. We do have the awards information for the past 6 months and engineering awards were up.

Research money lubricates everything else. One thing we can do to grow research funding is to seek more big multi-investigator programs. We have good support through Tom Parks’ office to write proposals, but we won’t move the needle much without these big groups i.e. MRSEC, etc.

External Awards
External awards are important but we should focus on internal awards as well. As a college and departments we haven’t paid enough attention to nominating our faculty for awards. If departments don’t have an awards committee they should consider the benefit for both the department and the faculty. We have faculty who are good candidates for many of these awards.

Graduate Student Recruiting
The college would like to meet with department grad directors to get ideas on what we can do to make grad recruiting more effective this year. We need more domestic applicants in every department. Individual faculty members will have to get involved in
order to make this happen. The chairs agreed that Eric Eddings & Monica Heaton should meet with their graduate coordinators and chairs of their graduate committees.

The grad directors should have time at the faculty retreats to discuss recruiting. If each faculty member would spend just 2 hours early in the fall contacting friends at other universities, we would have better results. The same thing is true for faculty recruiting; we need to beat the bushes early in order to get good applicants.

The number of domestic applications for grad school Masters and PhD were very low even though we are in the third year of a “no fee” application for domestic students. In recent years, we have exchanged names of seniors with other universities so that we can recruit each other’s students. This is a worthwhile program that needs department chairs to contact their counterparts at other universities soon, so that they will have time to collect the students’ information and permission to share it.

**External Service**
Patrick suggested that external service be considered in tenured faculty reviews, since national-level service, such as being a member of a review panel, can be very good for the U’s reputation.

Please let Rich know if you have other ideas for moving the college forward.