Engineering Research Committee  
College of Engineering  
Report for 2009-2010 Academic Year

Committee Members: Venkatesh Kodur (CEE, Chair), Subir Biswas (ECE), Christina Chan (CHEMS), Rong Jin (CSE), Andre Benard (ME), Wei Liao (ABE), Graduate Student representatives Ryan Maloney (ECE), Rustin Fike (CEE)  
Ex Officio: Leo Kempel, Peggy Wade (DER)

Committee Actions
The committee met seven times during the year, three times in the Fall and four times in the Spring, and acted on the following issues related to College research activities.

Responsible Conduct of Research Training
The committee discussed ways to implement "Responsible Conduct of Research Training" and in working with Ac. Dean Leo Kempel prepared a "Responsible Conduct of Research Implementation Plan". The National Science Foundation (NSF), to meet the intent of the America COMPETES Act, have established a new requirement for responsible conduct of research (RCR) training for all undergraduate students, graduate students, and post-doctoral personnel engaged in research. It is a requirement of NSF that all proposals with due dates on or after January 04, 2010 must have a statement that the university (by extension the college/departments) have a RCR training program in place for all undergraduate students, graduate students, and post-docs engaged in the research of a funded grant. The committee also discussed developing a number of on-line training modules on RCR for use by college and university personnel.

Division of Engineering Research Review Survey
The Committee, working with Ac. Dean Leo Kempel and with input from Peggy Wade, developed an on-line survey for performing a review of the Division of Engineering Research (DER). The survey was sent by Ac. Dean Leo Kempel to all faculty and staff of the college. The response to this survey (more than 50%) exceeded the expectations.

Withrow Awards
The Withrow nominations for Junior and Senior Scholar Awards were reviewed and ranked and the committee's recommendations were forwarded to Dean's office. After deliberations the committee recommended future nomination submissions to be in an e-format through a website, rather than hard copy submissions.

Strategic Plan Implementation
The committee invited the Strategic Plan Implementation Ad hock committee members and deliberated on steps needed to improve motivation and environment for research, and overall research productivity of the college. The members felt that a small task group comprising of ERC and Ad hock committee, should have a brain storming session in Fall 2010 and develop an action plan.

Other Issues
The committee discussed other issues such as the need for attaching export control forms for all research proposals, motivating key researchers to go after larger (Center) proposals, and the impact of changes in CGA structure.