Engineering College Advisory Council  
Michigan State University  
Minutes, October 5, 2009

FINAL

Present: Balasubramaniam, Chai (for Jain), Frid, Mukherjee, Portis, Safferman, Udpa, Voice, Worden

1. Minutes: the draft minutes from the September 28, 2009 meeting were approved with minor revisions.

2. Dean’s comments
   - Discussed potential budget reductions and emphasized that all academic programs are to stay intact and no layoffs will occur.
   - Programs are protected due, in part, to the anticipated increase in research funding, which is on a positive trajectory.
   - Clarified that reduction to general fund and higher expenses are additive resulting in the expected total cumulative cuts.

3. Faculty Representatives for All-University Awards Committee: two nominations for the All-University Awards Committee, and specifically the Excellence-in-Teaching Citations, are needed. Previous award winners will be contacted to serve.

4. Additional Discussion
   - During the last ECAC meeting, Dean Udpa recommended that members discuss budget issues with colleagues. Dr. Mukherjee reported on discussions within his Department.
   - In response to questions by ECAC members, Dean Udpa described various College functions and associated relative costs. The leanness of the College is not common knowledge.
   - ECAC members recommended that Dean Udpa prepare materials showing the leanness of the College to reconcile misperceptions.
   - Concern was expressed about the possibility of productive faculty members leaving to organizations with fewer funding issues. Dean Udpa emphasized that many other Universities are having more severe problems and emphasized that programs are being maintained and the collective, realistic goal is to maintain the positive trajectories in research and education even in these difficult budgetary times.

Respectively submitted:

Steven Safferman