Engineering College Advisory Council
Michigan State University
Minutes, September 28, 2009

Present: Balasubramaniam, Crimp (substitute for Worden), Frid, Mukherjee, Portis, Safferman, Udpa, Voice

1. Minutes: the draft minutes from the September 11, 2009 meeting were approved.

2. Dean’s comments:
   - Cost cutting ideas are being discussed in the Engineering Undergraduate Studies Committee and Engineering Graduate Studies Committee.
   - Additional budget updates from the university administrators are available.
   - Cost cutting suggestions from the ECAC are encouraged.

3. Reports from Martin Crimp on Selected University Committees:
   - College is not well represented on the University Faculty Council because of a member’s teaching conflict. A substitute needs to be appointed.
   - University Committee on Academic Policy.
     - An online form for academic honesty is instituted. The Dean’s office is now the central recording location.
     - Fall welcoming schedule for 2010-2011 academic year is the same as this year.
     - The University Registrar has prohibited 80 minute Monday, Wednesday and Monday, Friday classes unless a request is submitted and an exemption is granted by the Registrar. ECAC member expressed concern that faculty were not consulted before this policy was instituted.
     - An approximately 20% cut in general funds over a three year period is anticipated.
     - A new policy concerning generic prescription drugs is in place and additional changes to medical coverage are anticipated.

4. Discussion on Potential Cost Cutting Measures:
   - The Dean shared suggestions he has received.
     - Reducing required credit hours is of interest to some faculty. The average number of credits in College programs is approximately in the middle of Big 10 Universities, however, the numbers vary greatly.
     - Consolidation of course sections.
     - Change to a block tuition system.

   - Action already taken.
     - Unfilled positions are no longer being filled.
     - Centers are no longer receiving subsidies.
• Programs for recruiting students from under representative populations are not active.
• Funding for non-tenure track instructors is reduced.

• Items that will not be impacted by budget cuts.
  • Faculty members in tenure track who are not yet tenured.
  • Maintenance of current teacher/student ratio.

• ECAC budget related discussion.
  • Internal MSU funding appears to be greater than other institutions. The question was raised if this is an appropriate use of funds during this time of budget cuts.
  • Require faculty salary compensation during academic year to be in a ratio with summer salary.
  • Retiring faculty will not be replaced.

• The Dean reviewed the current College budget. Approximately $25 million is in the base budget and approximately $40 million is from external funding.

• Departments should be discussing budget issues and sending suggestions to the Dean before October 9.

Respectively submitted:

Steven Safferman