Engineering Research Committee  
College of Engineering  
Report for 2010-2011 Academic Year

Committee Members

Faculty: Subir Biswas (ECE, Chair), Venkatesh Kodur (CEE), Christina Chan (CHEMS), Rong Jin (CSE), Andre Benard (ME), Wei Liao (ABE)

Graduate Student representatives: Ryan Maloney (Mat. Sc.), E. Pasco (Env. Eng.), R. Fike (CEE)

Ex Officio: Leo Kempel, Peggy Wade (DER)

Committee Actions

The committee met eight times during the year, four 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 continued its work on implementing "Responsible Conduct of Research Training". With the help of DECS, fifteen online RCR modules were set up. Dr. Kempel updated the departments about the plan for COE RCR training program.

The committee further recommended that DECS should set up a database to track training records for the graduate students. The database was up and running in the middle of November 2010. The instruction of RCR procedure was sent to the ERC committee and graduate coordinators in different departments after the database was set up.

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. The committee reviewed 4 candidates for the junior faculty award and 3 candidates for the senior faculty award.

College Strategic Planning for Research

The committee reviewed college strategic research planning document and identified the following five topics as long term implementation candidates.

1. Establish comprehensive strategy for increasing funding
2. Increase external recognition for faculty and students
3. Recruit and retain higher-quality students
4. Establish the MSU applied research institute
5. Improve industrial collaboration and entrepreneurship

Three out of the above five items were further identified for perusal during the next academic year. Those three items (in order or implementation priority) are:
1. Establish an MSU applied research institute
2. Improve industrial collaboration and entrepreneurship
3. Establish comprehensive strategy for increasing funding

Regarding item 1, questions such as what kind of infrastructure is needed and what is the structure of such an institute, were discussed in detail. Regarding item 3, the committee discussed whether there is a need to hire a person at the college level to be in charge of seeking funding opportunities and communicating with funding agencies.

**Office Space Allocation to Graduate Students**

Due to the expected increase of the number of graduate students in the next few years, COE needs to set up a policy to allocate office spaces for graduate students. The committee discussed various scenarios on how to enact such a policy. It concurred on the following guidelines for allocating stand-alone office spaces.

1. Full-time Ph.D. students have top priority for obtaining office space.
2. MS students on research assistantship appointment have the second priority for obtaining office space.
3. The rest of the graduate students will have office spaces once they become available.

Policies for in-lab space allocation to graduate students will be discussed during the next academic year.

**Other Issues**

Drs. Wade and Kempel talked about the changes of the MSU research administration. The following changes were discussed:

1. The new contract and grant agency (CGA) will focus on handling post-awards, and the office of sponsored programs (OSP) will focus on handling pre award.
2. Dr. Wade will be the college pointing person to collect comments related with the changes of the research administration.

Committee members were asked to inform their individual departments about these changes.