Engineering College Advisory Council
Michigan State University
Minutes of Friday, February 06, 2009

FINAL

Present: Balasubramaniam, Jain, Safferman, Udpa, Voice, Worden

1. Minutes: the minutes from the January 30, 2009 meeting were approved with revisions.

2. Dean’s Comments
   • Planning for budget cuts is ongoing.
   • Congratulations to Dr. Percy Pierre, the first COE faculty member elected to the National Academy of Engineering.
   • The likely future national stimulus package will provide increases in funding to agencies that often fund COE faculty members. All are encouraged to prepare and submit high quality proposals, both solicited and unsolicited.
   • COE publications, proposals, and research funding this year are on a very positive trajectory likely making this another “banner” year.

3. Nominations for College Elections: several nominations for University committees are needed. An update of these positions will be sent to ECAC members so that nominations can be solicited.

4. College of Engineering Strategic Planning Initiative
   • Possible structures for the proposed Applied Research Institute were discussed including its relation to MBI International.
   • The relation of the proposed Applied Research Institute to the current COE Centers was discussed including the advantages and disadvantages of linking all under a central administrative structure.
   • Advantages and disadvantages of encouraging MSU undergraduates to stay for graduate school were discussed.
   • The proper balance between MS and Ph.D. students was discussed with the conclusion that this is a department-level strategic issue, and that there is no overall College expectation.
   • Advantages of developing an engineering education center to unify and bring attention to the several ongoing and proposed efforts were discussed.

5. Teaching Effectiveness Initiative Discussion
   • An ECAC member provided specific comments, to be forwarded to the Teaching Effectiveness Task Committee.
   • Concern was raised on the encouragement to start new classes as a way to demonstrate educational scholarship.

6. Other Issues
   • Another MSU college has conducted post-tenure reviews, beyond the annual review process. This may become a trend at the University and will be discussed by the ECAC in the future.
   • The ECAC has requested recommendations from the College Rating Committee on improving the promotion and tenure process.
   • The role, importance, and qualifications of a mentor for tenure candidates were discussed.

Respectfully Submitted:

Steve Safferman