April 23, 2014

To: Leo C. Kempel, Dean
From: Edward J. Rothwell, chairperson, Engineering Undergraduate Studies Committee
Subject: Summary Committee report for 2013-2014

The Engineering Undergraduate Studies Committee (EUSC) met 11 times during the academic year 2013-2014, primarily to discuss curricular issues, including a variety of course and program changes. Details of these activities may be found in the minutes of the Committee. A number of other issues were considered, including:

1. **Packaging Engineering Program.** The Committee approved a new BS degree program in Packaging Engineering, to be jointly administered by the School of Packaging and the College of Engineering. The curriculum is structured to allow for future ABET accreditation, and a plan is in place for appropriate assessment of student outcomes. Admission to the program will be made following current College of Engineering procedures. The Committee approved five new courses to be offered through the School of Packaging and included in the curriculum for the new program. After the Committee approved the program, the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources requested that further action at the university level be suspended.

2. **Energy Minor.** A proposal for a new minor in energy was considered by the Committee. Discussion of how to implement the minor within individual degree programs was directed toward the departmental undergraduate studies committees. Action was postponed pending input from those committees.

3. **Teaching Effectiveness.** A subcommittee was formed consisting of the two student representatives and two faculty representatives to propose methods for improving reaching effectiveness. The subcommittee was tasked with looking at both the 2009 report of the ad hoc ECAC Teaching Effectiveness Task Committee, and a summary response prepared by the EUSC in 2013. The subcommittee met several times and proposed policies regarding instructional evaluation and improvement. Several concerns regarding implementation were voiced by members of the Committee, and no specific action was taken. Plans were made for continuing discussion during future meetings of the Committee.

4. **Selection of Commencement Speaker.** A procedure was approved for selecting the student speaker for the engineering commencement. The procedure is in line with procedures used by other colleges, and includes written and oral evaluations by members of both the EUSC and the SEC.
5. **Reviews of EGR 100 and EGR 102.** As the sole curriculum committee for EGR courses, the EUSC periodically asks for updates from faculty involved in teaching various EGR classes. Tim Hinds presented a thorough overview and status report for EGR 100 while Laura Genik did the same for EGR 102. Committee members provided their suggestions for improving the courses.

6. **Review of Directors.** The appropriate role of the EUSC in the review of directors of college-level programs was debated. The Committee decided that the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies should take the lead on the reviews, with members of the EUSC providing input as needed and appropriate.

7. **Engineering Economics.** A proposal for an engineering economics course was introduced by the two student members of the Committee. Discussion ensued as to whether it would be appropriate to require the course in certain degree programs, or to have it as an option, and whether to administer the course through the College or through a specific department. No consensus was reached, and further discussion was relegated to future meetings of the Committee.