Engineering College Advisory Council
Michigan State University
Minutes of Tuesday, August 19, 2008

FINAL

Present: Balasubramaniam, Engeda, Jain, Portis, Safferman, Udpa, Voice, Worden
Guests: Associate Dean Kempel and Associate Dean Koochesfahani

1. Minutes: the minutes from the May 2, 2008 meeting were approved.

2. Dean’s Comments
   • Long-term strategic planning is progressing. The mission and vision statements are complete and meetings will continue through the fall semester (presented by Balasubramaniam).
   • The College budget is relatively steady. Values for each component were presented.
   • Development funds (expendables, endowments, and facilities) are substantially higher than last year but last year funds were low.
   • Undergraduate enrollment continues to decline. The quality of students increased, as measured by the average ACT score.
   • Ongoing initiatives include the following.
     o Residential Program: fully started, including the completion of renovations at Wilson Hall and the requirement of EGR 100 and EGR 102 for all first year students.
     o Bioeconomy Initiative: several new hires are in place.
     o Composite Vehicle Research Center: obtained a grant.
     o Institute of Engineering and Health: search for a Director is ongoing.
   • New initiatives are started, including the following.
     o Center for Complex Materials: search committee initiated.
     o Center for Cyber-Enabled Discovery: formation in initial stages.
   • Research expenditures by the College in 2006-2007 were approximately $200,000/FTE. This is near the bottom of the Big 10 Universities. Considerable discussion followed on reasons and actions that may help increase and means to measure productivity in each Department. Discussions will continue on this topic at future meetings.
   • Additional space and facility improvements associated with the College were listed.
     o Composite Vehicle Research Center.
     o MBI (space for faculty working on bioeconomy issues).
     o Wilson classroom and laboratory improvements.
     o Barrier free access to Engineering Building.
     o Improved lobby in Engineering Building.
   • Based on a recommendation from the Engineering Research and Graduate Studies Committee, Associate Dean Rosenberg’s position has been divided into 2 positions. Dr. Kempel is Associate Dean of Research and Dr. Koochesfahani is Associate Dean for Graduate Studies.

3. University Committee Vacancies: representatives for University Curriculum Committee and University Faculty Council are needed.
4. **Election of ECAC Chair and Secretary:** Mark Worden was elected ECAC President and Steve Safferman was elected ECAC Secretary.

5. **Other Issues**
   - Advantages and disadvantages of deemphasizing MS students were discussed.
   - The importance of support for teaching assistance was discussed and benchmarking to other Universities was suggested.
   - To increase graduate student numbers, aggressively pursuing graduate scholarships was suggested.

Respectfully Submitted:
Steve Safferman