Minutes
Engineering Faculty Council
Meeting # 5, September 20, 2005

1. The meeting was called to order by Professor Collins at 10:30 am in 3511 SC

Members present: C. Beckermann, J. Reinhardt, S. Collins, S. Rahman and W. Krajewski

Deans present: B. Butler, A. Scranton

2. Minutes of the EFC meetings on September 6 and September 13 were approved.

3. The Council discussed the next steps of the *Professionalism, Ethics and Leadership in Engineering Education Initiative*. Professor Collins made a motion:

   “Move that the College of Engineering faculty embark on a *Professionalism, Ethics and Leadership in Engineering Education Initiative*. The overall goal of this initiative is to help Engineering undergraduates reach their full potential both while they are students and after they enter the workplace. The initiative will also address student engagement in the learning process since any mismatch in the expectations that faculty and students have of the level and nature of student engagement will create conditions that lead to unprofessional and/or unethical behavior and undermine our students’ potential as leaders. The aspiration is that the University of Iowa’s engineering programs and graduates will be recognized as both distinctive and distinguished for their commitments to and accomplishments in professionalism, ethics and leadership.”

Prof Collins noted that this motion simply formalized the EFC’s decision of a week ago and it would facilitate our communications with internal and external audiences. It remains the case that the EFC is proceeding with the understanding that a faculty task force would be appointed and that decisions about the scope and additional elements, if any, of the initiative would await further decisions by the EFC. After a brief discussion the Council unanimously passed the motion.

Professor Collins made a second motion:

“Move that in addition to the faculty task force previously agreed upon by the EFC, a second element be added to the *Professionalism, Ethics and Leadership in Engineering Education Initiative*. The overall goal of this new element would be to generate internal and external support for the work of the faculty task force and for the overall initiative.”
Prof. Collins commented that if the initiative is to achieve its full potential and perhaps even to succeed it would be critical that the EFC’s efforts are understood and supported both by internal and external audiences. The EFC is in a position to be of considerable assistance to the faculty task force. The EFC can play a leadership role in this regard and should work closely with the Prof. John Lee, chair of the faculty task force, and the Dean’s Office. A discussion of what was meant by support ensued. Prof. Collins responded that he was thinking of both tangible and intangible support. The Council passed this motion unanimously as well.

Professor Collins will present the initiative to the Engineering Administrative Council at their meeting on September 20 and the College Advisory Board on September 30.

4. The Council discussed the final report and recommendations of the 2004-5 Curriculum Committee regarding global awareness. The Committee had developed a plan for enhancing the global awareness of engineering students and recommended that the 2005-06 Curriculum Committee work to develop a motion to implement the plan. Expressing the desire to decrease the Committee’s workload where possible and recognizing that the EFC had not yet had time to discuss the global awareness plan, Prof. Collins asked EFC members whether or not this is needed to be the subject of a specific charge to this year’s Curriculum Committee. The EFC concluded that it did and that the EFC should discuss the plan and provide feedback to the Committee.

5. The Council also discussed the report of the 2004-5 Promotion & Tenure Committee. The main charge of the Committee was to identify inconsistencies between recently adopted University P&T Policy and the corresponding P&T document used in the College. This turned out to be a moving target as the University document kept changing. While finishing the task will be important for the current committee, the immediate need is to identify and resolve those inconsistencies that might affect the current P&T cycle which is underway. Prof. Collins stated he was continuing to do some background homework on the EFC’s options. The Council will take specific action on behalf of the faculty regarding this issue in the near future. With respect to the customary charge to review promotion procedures, Prof. Collins asked the EFC if they wished to formulate this specific charge as two questions: 1) Was UI and College of Engineering policy followed? and 2) Was College of Engineering or UI policy implemented in ways that strike the P&T Committee as unwise? The EFC decided this formulation was appropriate.

6. The Council discussed the charges for the Curriculum Committee regarding the math sequence. Dean Scranton briefed the Council on the survey of faculty involved in teaching relevant courses. According to the procedures developed earlier, the Dean’s office conducted the survey and will have complete results for
this semester in the next few weeks. The Council decided to ask the Curriculum Committee to monitor the ongoing math sequence assessment process and the EFC will formulate an appropriate specific charge on this matter.

7. The EFC adjourned at 11:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Witold F. Krajewski
EFC Secretary