Minutes  
Engineering Faculty Council  
Meeting # 6, October 3, 2005

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

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

Deans present: A. Scranton

2. Minutes of the EFC meeting on September 20 were approved.

3. Professor Collins made several announcements:

   • At the 9/20/05 EAC meeting, Prof. Collins reported briefly on the EFC’s decision to embark on the Professionalism, Ethics and Leadership in Engineering Education Initiative. He asked for both input from and participation by the EAC. At least some of the members of the EAC spoke in favor of adding a graduate student component to the Initiative. At the 9/27/05 EAC meeting, Prof. Collins distributed a memo with the two motions adopted by the EFC on 9/20/05. The Initiative will be on the EAC agenda at a future meeting for a more extended discussion.

   • At the 9/20/05 EAC meeting, Associate Dean Carmichael distributed a document titled GRAC Proposed Recognition Awards (draft 3.0) and asked the EAC for comments. The proposal would create a number of awards to recognize faculty and staff accomplishments in research and graduate education. Dean Carmichael has asked the EFC to provide him with some feedback on this proposal sometime in the next several weeks. Prof. Collins stated he would put this matter on the agenda for an upcoming EFC meeting.

   • Profs. Andersen and Prof. Reinhardt represented the EFC at the Big Ten Engineering Information Technology Centers Conference session that Doug Eltoft arranged with his peers from other institutions on 9/26/05. In addition to Doug Eltoft, Robert Kohlhep from Wisconsin, Bill Burkhard from Penn State, Fred Hall from Michigan State, and Paul Killey from Michigan participated. Prof. Reinhardt and Andersen had reported that this was a useful session.

   • Prof. John Lee and Prof. Collins met with the Curriculum Committee of the College of Engineering Advisory Board for a two and one half hour discussion of the Professionalism, Ethics and Leadership in Engineering Education Initiative. Bennett Reischauer, Phil Larson, and Gregory Kirsch were present. All were supportive of the Initiative as a worthy endeavor with high potential. Advisory Board members found quite appealing the idea that the College might be recognized as both distinctive and distinguished for its commitments to and
accomplishments in professionalism, ethics and leadership. Board members had a variety of suggestions in terms of how to move forward.

4. The Council continued discussing the final report and recommendations of the 2004-05 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. The Council discussed the plan at length with a focus on how the plan might be implemented, whether it could be implemented in an efficient and effective manner, how the proposed plan compared with similar efforts at our peer institutions, and the appropriate minimum requirements of the plan.

5. The Council discussed the final report of the 2004-5 Promotion & Tenure Committee. That Committee suggested that the EFC revisit the issue of whether to merge the EFC’s Promotion and Tenure Committee and the Dean’s Advisory Promotion and Tenure Committee. The EFC agreed to handle this issue within the EFC.

Prof. Collins distributed draft charges for the 2005-6 P&T Committee that he had developed pursuant to the EFC’s decisions on 9/20/05. One charge dealt with review of procedures for promotion and tenure reviews and a second with review of procedures for new appointments. Prof. Collins asked Council members whether they wanted to restrict these charges to promotion and tenure reviews or appointments of tenure track faculty (assistant, associate, full professors). After some discussion the EFC agreed that such restrictions were appropriate for this year’s specific charges.

Prof. Collins noted that the general charge for last year’s P&T Committee was not the same as the general charge that appears in the College of Engineering Manual of Procedure. The difference in language related to the distinction between reviewing the appropriateness of promotion recommendations and reviewing the appropriateness of procedures leading to promotion recommendations. The EFC discussed but was unable to determine the source of the difference in the language. The EFC agreed that the P&T Committee should continue the past practice of reviewing procedures. The EFC also decided that the language from the Manual of Procedure should be used for the general charge and that Prof. Collins would communicate with the P&T Committee chair to make sure that there is no misunderstanding of the EFC’s intentions regarding the general charge. At an appropriate time it would be useful to clarify the language in the Manual of Procedure.

6. The EFC adjourned at 2:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Witold F. Krajewski
EFC Secretary