Minutes of the UI Engineering Faculty Council  
Meeting No. 12  
3210 Seamans Center  
December 5, 2007

Call to Order 3:33 pm

Present: S. Rahman- Chair, A. Guymon, S. Reddy, R. Valentine, Dean Butler, Guest- Dean Carmichael

Absent: M. Raghavan, Dean Scranton

Approval of Minutes  
Minutes from meeting 11 were approved unanimously.

Old Business  
College Faculty Meeting: A revised agenda for faculty meeting on Tuesday, December 18 was circulated. It will be distributed after a minor correction.

New Business  
Role of EFC in Graduate Programs and Education: Rahman solicited input from department chairs regarding this issue. Some said that current policy work well. One chair did give some suggestions. It is given that a number of differences exist between departments. The primary question is what role, if any, should EFC play in graduate education.

Dean Carmichael talked about the relationship between the COE and the Graduate College. The Graduate Research Advisory Council (GRAC) has been established to examine differences between departments and share best practices. The Graduate College sets up minimum requirements and guidelines. Over time some changes have been made in individual departments based on information shared during the GRAC meetings, but each department still has different cultures. If standards were to be put in place from COE, questions arise as to enforcement of such policies.

Carmichael listed certain issues that have been discussed in GRAC meetings. While currently at a high level, PhD enrollment is starting to decrease and post doctoral research is increasing. Reasons behind this trend have been discussed, and the committee has been tasked to bring this and other issues to faculty. Valentine suggested that the GRAC report to faculty via faculty meetings or other reports. Possibilities to increase communication from GRAC discussions were also mentioned. Reports from GRAC members in departmental faculty meetings were encouraged.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:37