Minutes of the Engineering Faculty Council Meeting
Meeting No. 17, Monday, February 23, 2009, 3210 SC

Present: R. Valentine-Chair, N. Grosland, A. Guymon, K.K. Choi, Dean P.B. Butler, Dean A. Scranton

1) The meeting was called to order by Rich Valentine at 1:35 p.m.

2) Minutes from Meeting No. 16 on February 16, 2009 were approved.

3) The Curriculum subcommittee working on Charge #4 (Easy Course Goals Survey review) has submitted five draft recommendations. The first two recommendations will be formalized and discussed by the Curriculum Committee (CC) as a whole and then forwarded to the EFC for action. The remaining three recommendations are in a grey area regarding the Easy ACE Surveys:
   1. Re-evaluate the questions asked on the Easy ACE Survey.
   2. Prepare a different (more appropriate) Easy ACE Survey for TAs.
   3. Request that error bars (standard deviations) be included in the Easy ACE Survey reports so that variability due to low response rates can be easily spotted.

   Julie Jessop, the Chair of CC, asked the EFC whether these recommendations are that the Curriculum Committee should pursue, either alone or in conjunction with the Teaching Committee.

   Dean Butler said that the four questions on the Easy ACE Survey cannot be changed since those were mandated by the Regents/University. Rich will communicate with Julie regarding this fact. It was pointed out that the student response rate is indeed declined after the electronic survey was implemented. However, Butler said that it is not a good idea to go back to the paper survey since it was very expensive. We need to find ways to improve the feedback rate on electronic survey. Butler agreed to write a memo to students to emphasize the importance of their responses.

4) Dean Butler met Civil & Environmental Engineering department to discuss the College budget issue. It was agreed that his meeting with each department will be sufficient, without requiring a College wide meeting. Butler said the budget cut number is 7-10% at the State level, which means $600K-900K cut for the College.

5) Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.