MINUTES: Engineering Faculty Council
Meeting No. 12, November 16, 2009; 3111 SC

Council Members:

In attendance:  A. Guymon, N. Grosland,  S. Reddy, Dean A. Scranton, Dean P.B. Butler
Members of the Curriculum Committee:  M. Andersland, W. Eichinger, P Carrica, S. Ruebush

Absent:  K.K. Choi, D. Lee

Proceedings:

• Meeting was called to order at 11:00 am

Curriculum Committee (CC) Charges

• The council met with members of the Curriculum Committee to discuss the charges for AY2009-2010.

Charge 1: Consider the impending cuts to the TA budget, and provide recommendations on how to optimize the use of available funds to support the teaching mission of the College (at all levels). Consider specifically the impending 20% reduction in TA funds for the core curriculum (i.e., 059:xxx and 057:xxx) and make specific recommendations for how to best use these resources.

  – The CC inquired as to the current practice of allocating TA funds for the core courses. Dean Scranton will provide this information to the CC.
  – M. Andersland asked if constraints exist. For example, may undergraduate students be assigned as teaching assistants as opposed to graduate students? Dean Butler indicated that funds are currently allocated based on courses in need of help. How the funds are assigned (i.e., UG vs graduate students) is not part of the equation. Dean Scranton reminded the group that the core courses are important for retention and supporting the 6 programs in the college.

Charge 2: Participate in the Leadership, Ethics, and Professionalism (LEAP) initiative, contributing as requested in the redefinition of this task force, and examine possible enhancement in these areas within the College Core Course Curriculum.

  – W. Eichinger asked where the council saw LEAP going. Dean Butler expressed that he is interested in enhancing the UG programs by providing added value (i.e., Leadership, Ethics and Professionalism) to the curriculum. In the past, a goal was to combat cheating. Mechanisms are in place to do so and hence efforts need not be duplicated by this committee. The curriculum committee will review the suggestions proposed previously by the LEAP committee and determine if additional work needs to be done, if so a new committee will be formed.

Charge 3: Consider the continuation of Rhetoric as a requirement in the engineering curriculum.

  – S. Reddy reported that historically all University of Iowa Students were required to take one course in common (i.e., Rhetoric). The CC will address the question “What do we want for our students, and is the rhetoric course satisfying these goals?” If not, alternatives will be discussed.
Charge 4: Review Course Activity Reports (CAR) for the College of Engineering core curriculum courses (059: xxx & non-college courses) in coordination with the core course coordinators.

- M. Andersland questioned the purpose of maintaining the CARs. His experience has been positive in terms of recording course evolution, but expressed that a number of faculty do not regularly maintain, or refer back to, the CARs. The members of the EFC and CC concluded that it would be beneficial to have the course coordinators and instructors for the individual core courses to meet, discuss and maintain and the CARs.

----------------------------------------

- Minutes from Meeting No. 11 approved.

Announcements
- The final Faculty Budget Meeting will be merged with the December Faculty Meeting.
- The council suggested that the Faculty meeting be scheduled for the latter part of week of December 7. A. Guymon will set up the meeting.

Future Actions
- S Reddy will invite the P&T committee to the 11.30.09 EFC meeting.
- Next Meeting Monday, Nov 30 at 11:00 am; rm. 3111 SC.

- Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

Minutes submitted by NM Grosland