The Henry Samueli School of Engineering
Faculty Meeting
March 14, 2006


Call to Order and Chair’s Announcements: 11:30 - 11:35

No specific announcements.

Introduction of New Faculty: Professor Hamid Jafarkhani introduced (on behalf of Jean-Luc Gaudiot, Chair EECS) Professor Athina Markopoulou (PhD Stanford), Professor Brian Dempsey (PhD MIT). Both new appointments effective Winter 2006 in EECS.

Dean’s Report:

1) Expressed thanks on behalf of the entire School to Associate Dean John La Rue and the departmental ABET lead faculty:
   2005-2006 ABET Committee
   AE - Haris Catrakis
   BME - Zhongping Chen and William Tang
   CE - Michael McNally
   ChE - Nancy Da Silva
   CpE - Fadi Kurdahi
   CSE - Phillip Sheu and Ian Harris (from the Bren School of ICS)
   EnE - Brett Sanders
   EE - Glenn Healey and Maqsood Chaudhry
   ME - Athanasios Sideris
   MSE - Farghalli Mohamed

2) Faculty recruitment for 14 positions underway. Three cases have been submitted to CAP (2 senior and 1 junior – 2 in CEE and 1 in EECS). Looks like we will have an excellent hiring cycle. Hope to hire at least 7 if not more of the remaining positions this year. Reminder that we should also look to attract, in addition, senior campus level distinguished professors.
3) An academic planning group (Vision for the Future Committee) has been created to continue the School’s academic planning process which was previously led by Professor Alan Stubberud. The Committee has been tasked with integrating the previous plans submitted by departments with their most recent academic growth plans and then to develop a vision for future for the School as a whole. The Committee is comprised of two faculty from each department, one junior and one senior. Professor Will Recker has agreed to Chair the Committee. The other members are: M. Feng, D. Papamoschou, A. Shkel, N. Bagherzadeh, P. Burke, J. Brody, W. Tang, A.Yee, and Grace Lu. Thank you to all for agreeing to serve and to move the School forward.

4) Research Symposium this year will focus on engineering in medicine. Recent negative publicity for the medical school has necessitated some program revisions and has delayed our planning process. Thank you to the Symposium Planning Committee: Professor Nancy Allbritton, Bruce Tromberg, and G.P. Li. Chancellor Drake will be the keynote banquet speaker. Dr. William Link will receive the “Engineering the Future Award” at the banquet for his assistance to establish the Biomedical Engineering Department, for establishing the William Link Endowed Chair for the Chairman of the Biomedical Engineering Program, and for working with the School to obtain additional funding for scholarships and Fellowships for Biomedical Engineering students. An Alumnus of the Year Award will be bestowed upon Dr. Georges Belford, Professor at RPI and faculty and student awards will also be given out.

5) Engineering Science in Design Center has been established as a School Center. Professors M. McCarthy and D. Dunn-Rankin will co-direct.

6) Eng 3 bldg groundbreaking is scheduled for January 2007 with occupancy to take place approximately two years after that. Although this is a state funded building, the funds available are inadequate because of the increase in construction and materials costs. The School will need to raise approximately $6 to 10 million in order to realize the full footprint of the building as originally planned. The target to raise these funds is November. Initial discussions with local industry appear to be promising and we will continue our efforts to raise the funds required. There have been two preliminary bids already on the building. The plan is for two buildings, IERF and CSE, to come down to make room for Eng 3. The surge space next to the new Engineering Parking Structure is earmarked for ITS, DUE and a portion of NACS which would free up the second floor of Engineering Gateway for reassignment to HSSoE.

7) The School currently has a $23 million endowment fund. The goal is to create an endowment fund of $70-100 million in a few years which would allow us to establish a well funded Honors Program and Fellowship fund which would make us more competitive nationally.

Committee Reports:

Academic Senate Activities: Martha McCartney (new chair-elect of the Academic Senate).

1) Replacement of Academic Senate Chair on UCOP with Vice Chair. An email announcement has just been sent to all Faculty.
2) UCOP in disarray over compensation issues. Some discussions taking place regarding caps on salaries which would disadvantage our campus top administration because their salaries are lower than those on other campuses. This is something that our EVC and Provost and Chancellor want to take a stand on with Oakland. Our Dean, for instance, is underpaid as compared to other UC Engineering Deans.
3) Student fees may increase despite the Governors commitment not to raise fees.
4) Growth and Budget Committee: Budget Work Group, advise the Provost. Martha Mecartney, Derek Dunn-Rankin and G.P. Li participate. The question is normally where do you want to cut money and still ensure growth. It’s a challenge. The trickle down return of money from Oakland (and non-uniform trickle down to different campuses not in proportion with money paid from the campuses) is an issue.
5) FTE allocation – Allocations made in 2005-06 based upon Clusters of Excellence. 2006-07 debate on how FTE will be allocated – no flexibility on Excellence FTE must be filled as allocated.
6) HSSoE has had the largest growth in graduate student enrollment on campus.
7) Los Alamos Lab will remain managed by UC.
8) Faculty Welfare Committee looking at issues regarding faculty housing in University Hills – faculty growth outpacing available housing.
9) Undergraduate Studies Committee: Brett Sanders
   1) Update on efforts to create a common freshman year curriculum: General feedback positive so far – waiting for information from Physical Sciences.
   2) Admissions: Applications have increased from 4900 freshmen, 2003 to 5800 this year – so increased admissions. Enrollments have been flat though. Need to increase efforts to improve yield. Campus categorizes applicants into A, B, C etc. groups based upon GOA and SAT scores. Applicants in the A and B groups are automatically admitted. Many students in the C, D and E groups are also good students. HSSoE faculty review the applications and make decisions on whether to admit or not.
   3) The Campus Honors Program event was held last Saturday for the “A” students. Faculty will receive lists of names of the “A” and “B” listed students. Departments will then determine the best strategy to try to recruit these students to the HSSoE.

Bob Cassidy: In 2002 the School met with the Office of Undergraduate Admissions and requested to have larger role in admissions starting with Winter 2003. Prior to 2003, 21% of the entering freshman went on probation. 14% made the Dean’s Honor Roll. After 2003 the trend turned around and in Fall 2005 only 13% of the entering freshman were on probation and 22% of the students made the Dean’s Honor Roll. Freshmen are now doing as well as the continuing students so there is strong indication that reviewing the files provides great benefits. We would like to improve it even further.
Dean Alexopoulos: Currently 24% of our total student enrollment is comprised of graduate students. We are the only school in campus that has this ratio which is a standard at top10 research universities.

*Graduate Studies Committee: Faryar Jabbari on behalf of Hamid Jafarkhani*

1) Number of Grad applications holding steady. About 1950; about a percent off from last year. Biomed has seen substantial growth. Block allocation from campus has gone up approx 10 percent this year; supposedly because of increase in PhD students. Too early to tell what the yield for this year will be. Last year it was down.

2) C.C. Lee has been named the Director of the Materials Science and Engineering Program. Proposal: Change of the name of the program from “concentration in materials and engineering” to “concentration in materials engineering manufacturing technology”. The change has been approved by the Executive Committee.

Discussion: Doesn’t “technology” suggest lower-level technology? Faculty were asked to list the words that they felt must be in the name and these four came up. Many esteemed universities have the word technology associated with their names - MIT, Caltech, etc.

Faculty vote – Unanimously approved.

*Research and Travel: Payam Heydari*

Announcement sent and applications being accepted. Decisions will be made around April 4th. 25 applications received to date.

*Old Business/New Business:*

**Joint Admin/Faculty Research Infrastructure Working Group**

Derek Dunn-Rankin: Provided a handout. The group still needs additional faculty who are interested and willing to tackle these issues. Chairs and the faculty have been asked to help identify such individuals. There are millions of dollars on campus that we are not using for graduate student support etc, because we are not coordinated.

Professor Sorooshian thanked Derek for his sincere work and requests that the faculty chairs who have not responded yet to Derek’s call for help please do so.

Dean Alexopoulos commented that he finds it inspirational that this group of faculty has, from bottoms up approach, volunteered to help the school.
Professor Sorooshian announced that he is on the search committee for the Vice-Chancellor for Research. There are currently several nominees - one engineer is in the list.

Meeting Adjourned: 1:00

Respectfully submitted by R. Jayakrishnan, Faculty Secretary