FACULTY MEETING

NOVEMBER 28, 2005


Also Present: Marilyn Armentrout, Christy Boyer, Lisa Briggs, Bob Cassidy, Diane Hohnbaum, Robin Jeffers, Janice Holstein, Gloria Pai, John Romine

Call to Order

New faculty introductions:
- Biomedical Engineering – Professors Frithjof Kruggel and Zoran Nenadic
- Electrical Engineering and Computer Science – Professor Ozdal Boyraz
- Civil and Environmental Engineering – Professor Lizhi Sun and Professor in Residence Ayman Mosallam
- Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering – Distinguished Adjunct Professor Daniel Joseph

Chair’s announcements:
- An Honorary Doctorate Degree was recently awarded to Dean Nicolaos G. Alexopoulos by the National Technical University of Athens, Greece.
- The HSSoE Holiday Gathering is Dec 13th.

Dean’s Update:
- The EVC has authorized three new FTE to the HSSOE for recruitment at the highest endowed professor level. There are currently 14 FTEs under recruitment (may be 16 if appointments as part of the campus career partners program are filled). We will need to be aggressive in order to identify and recruit excellent candidates for all of the positions by July 1, 2006.
- Update on the Engineering III building. A beautiful building is being designed. Efforts are underway to retain the size of the building as originally planned but we are approximately 20 % under budget due to steel price and concrete price increases and other increased costs associated with construction. Additional funding will need to be raised with approximately $15M being the current target under discussion. In addition, negotiations are taking place that may result in some of the largest endowments for HSSOE that the campus has ever experienced.
- Faculty participation in the HSSOE Distinguished Lecturer Program should be increased. The faculty attendance for the November 14th lecture was disappointing. Dr. Dwight Streit, Vice President, Electronics Technology Division of Northrop Grumman Space and Technology, was our invited speaker. The focus of his talk entitled, “Engineering Education in a Rapidly Changing Global Environment,” was undergraduate engineering education and was outstanding.
• Preliminary discussions are taking place with Professors Mike McCarthy and Derek Dunn-Rankin regarding the creation of an HSSoE Engineering Science in Design Center. Although the initial core of this center would be faculty from MAE, the overall vision is to develop the center into a multidisciplinary center in design which would include faculty and students from across HSSoE departments and perhaps eventually faculty and students from other schools across campus.

• The financial picture for the university and the school has improved. UCI Staff received 3.5% salary raises for the first time in three years. We also were successful in gaining approval for six faculty accelerations this year which is an unusually high number. Inquires regarding salary increases for faculty have been made and we have been instructed by the campus that any salary increase requests need to be included as part of a faculty merit or promotion file and that this is the only avenue that can be used to request salary increases for individual faculty.

• The School has done very well thus far following the vision developed by the departments and the School’s Academic Planning Committee in 1999-2000. It is time, however, to plan the next steps and a “vision for the future” committee needs to be created. This committee will discuss the School’s future direction and growth plan for the next 10 years. I am currently working with department chairs to create such a committee. If you are interested in serving please inform your department chair.

• The School also needs accelerate the next HSSoE building and a committee will be created shortly to assist in that endeavor.

General discussion followed on the topics of the proposed creation of an Engineering Science in Design Center, the shift in extramural funding source availability, and the proposal to potentially add a staff position in the school whose focus would be to facilitate the creation of large centers and large interdisciplinary extramural funding proposals.

Addition comments by the Dean:

• Students ask me what I mean by Engineering Leadership – how do we “teach” it? I had to think about that. When I was a faculty at UCLA student leaders were invited to attend the faculty meetings. I encourage you to include the student society presidents to attend at least a part of the department faculty meetings; integrate students into Faculty Meetings when appropriate so that they gain a sense of what engineering leadership is.

One faculty commented that in his experience student’s contributions at meetings are limited since it is difficult for one or two students who are invited to faculty and/or committee meetings to represent all students. A suggestion was made to have the Dean consider holding open forum meetings for students with the Chairs, Associate Deans, and faculty.
Another faculty suggested that perhaps the Executive Committee and the department chairs could discuss this issue in more detail and work out a plan on how to best do this. The Dean agreed.

Professor Sorooshian mentioned that while he was at the University of Arizona students were always invited to attend meetings and that student participation was very helpful in many ways.

- Our research symposium, California Prosperity Through Technology, is scheduled for May 15 – May 16, 2006. The theme this year will be Engineering in Medicine with session on Cardiovascular Engineering, Engineering Neuroscience, Technologies for Cancer and Life Chip Technologies. Please mark your calendars, announce it to your students and plan to participate.

Senate Council and School Reports

Martha McCartney, Chair-Elect – Secretary of the Academic Senate

1. Senate Representatives for 2005-06 are – Professors S. Sorooshian, Faculty Chair, R. (Jay) Jayakrishnan, Fadi Kurdahi, and Feng Liu. The complete 2005-06 Senate Committee Rosters can be found at http://www.senate.uci.edu.
2. Percentage of faculty on campus committees - BME – 4%, CEE – 31%, EECS – 17, MAE – 24% and ChEMS 33%.
3. New programs being discussed: Pharmaceutical Sciences, Nursing, and Public Health which would all be housed in a College of Health Sciences.
4. The creation of a Law school is being discussed, is in the planning stage and has strong support. Patent law could be a strong emphasis and if so perhaps there will be opportunities for Engineering to become involved and to benefit.
5. A proposal for the creation of a School of Design has been revised and is under discussion once again.

Information on new programs can be located on the web site of the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost.

6. The School of Social Ecology is considering a reorganization in which some of their programs and faculty may transfer into the new department of Public Health. Some faculty may request a transfer to engineering.

Brett Sanders, Chair, Undergraduate Committee

Undergraduate admissions for fall 2005, as they were in 2004, are down again slightly from their highs in 2002 and 2003. As the quality of students admitted increases yield
challenges also increase. Faculty need to take more responsibility for Undergraduate recruiting and plan ways to increase our yield numbers.

Although overall enrollments have decreased, primarily in EECS, the School is much more balanced in terms of enrollment numbers across departments. Approximately five years ago 70% of the admitted undergraduate students were in EECS.

This year we hope to consider the common freshman year curriculum for HSSoE students. The benefits would include additional time for students to transfer between majors, engineering might yield more students from the undeclared majors pool, it would establish a common educational foundation for all engineering students, and would allow students to apply to the “Engineering Gateway” program. This approach is the paradigm of top engineering schools.

Abe Lee, Chair, Graduate Studies Committee

Admissions are down slightly from fall 2004.

Future Discussions will include:
- Departments working together to share resources and strategies for recruitment
- Student involvement on the Graduate Committee
- On-Going discussion on UC-wide issue of increasing tuition costs for international students.

Payam Heydari, Chair, Research and Travel Committee

The 2005-06 campus allocation to HSSoE is $37,137. First call for proposals will go out to faculty in December 2005. The deadline to apply will be March 31, 2006 with awards to be announced April 30, 2006. Travel must take place between July 1, 2005 and June 30, 2006. In 2004-05 the allocation was $33,621, 38 proposals were funded.

Proposals should be emailed to Ms. Soo Lee in the EECS Business office, sooyl@uci.edu. She is the staff contact for the Committee this year.

Old Business – None

New Business – None

Moved to Adjourn

Respectfully submitted
R. (Jay) Jayakrishnan, Faculty Secretary