FACULTY OF ENGINEERING
Dean’s Staff Advisory Committee

July 20, 2016
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm
E2 3324

MINUTES

Present: Jennifer Moll (Chair), Rick Culham (Acting Dean), Graeme Adair, Pat Anderson, Caity Dyck, Andrea Hagedorn, Zivoijn Pantic, Jen Rathlin, Mona Skuterud, Trever Smouter, Mark Sobon, Ian Taylor, Amanda Watkins, Tim Weber (Secretary)

Regrets: Daniel Delattre, Donna Kellendonk

1. Guest Speaker: Mahejabeen Ebrahim, Director of Equity

Mahejabeen Ebrahim was unable to attend and did not give a report.

2. Report from the Dean

Rick Culham introduced himself as Acting Dean, gave an update on Pearl Sullivan, and reported on the New Resource Allocation Model (NRAM) and the State of the Faculty of Engineering.

As of May 2017, the University of Waterloo will be using a new model for its finances. Instead of funds being allocated by the Provost Office, those areas who generate funds will receive their funds directly and then pay for the various central services. The new model is similar to what is used by many other universities and is designed to increase transparency and accountability. The Faculty of Engineering will be unique within the university as the departments will receive their funds directly instead of everything going to the Dean’s Office to be distributed. Rick Culham assured DSAC members the Faculty of Engineering is in a good position to handle the changes brought about by NRAM. DSAC members inquired about specifics of NRAM such as how support units within Engineering and cross departmental initiatives will be funded, how revenue will flow for service teaching, where more information can be found, how service units will be more transparent and accountable, and if there are any potential side effects.

Rick Culham presented data and information from his Engineering Faculty Assembly report. The Faculty of Engineering’s undergraduate program is the largest engineering undergraduate program in Canada. For the first time when surveyed students listed the University of Waterloo’s reputation as the main reason why they chose to attend. Typically students have listed the co-op program as their main reason in the past. Also the percentage of female students overall has increased but the number of graduate students has been flattening out. DSAC members discussed why the number of graduate students has not been increasing the last few years. The Faculty of Engineering as a whole continues to grow and there are now 309 faculty members and 227 staff members. The research funding for the faculty is also growing with the average faculty member now receiving $224,218 in funding. Both the University of Waterloo’s rankings and reputation is doing very well. It is getting more competitive to get into the Waterloo Engineering undergraduate program as this year over 2500 students with 90+
averages had to be turned down. Engineering will begin introducing video interviews to help distinguish high quality students. Waterloo Engineering grads’ employment rates and salary are higher than the provincial average for engineers. In the last ten years the Faculty’s space has grown by 50%. Engineering has just taken over EC4 and E7 is on schedule to open up in 2018. There are a number of new Department Chairs and Directors: Eric Croiset has been reappointed as Chair of Chemical Engineering, Anne Bordeleau has been appointed the Director of the school of Architecture, Vincent Gaudet has been appointed the Chair of Electrical & Computer Engineering, and Carl Haas will be the Acting Chair of Civil & Environmental Engineering until Jeff West begins as Chair in 2018. DSAC members inquired about grade inflation within high schools, the logistics of the video interviews, student satisfaction, and alumni giving. Rick Culham thanked staff members for their hard work and noted that the Faculty of Engineering’s success is a team effort.

3. Other Business

Tim Weber reported that the new DSAC webpage is available at https://uwaterloo.ca/engineering/dsac and encourage DSAC members to use it and share it with their colleagues.

Andrea Hagedorn reminded DSAC members that they can pass feedback and suggestions on the Strategic Plan on to her.

Adjourned: 4:10pm