

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

DEAN'S STAFF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thursday, October 18, 2012

10:00-11:10am

E2 3324

- Present:** Pearl Sullivan, Dean of Engineering
Liz Bevan, Chemical Engineering
Carman Caradima, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Anca Constantinescu, Dean of Engineering Office
Kristen Deckert, Systems Design Engineering
Heather FitzGerald, Dean of Engineering Office
Robert Kraemer, Engineering Machine Shop
Stephanie Massel, Conrad Business, Entrepreneurship and Technology Centre
Matt Oliver, School of Architecture
Bev Rodgers, Management Sciences
Stephen Sempson, Engineering Computing
Robert Wagner, Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering
Tim Weber, Recording Secretary
- Regrets:** Phil Bezaire, Engineering Undergrad Office
-

I. Report from the Dean

- **Executive Council:** Five projects have been created as the basis for a university strategic plan. The Staff Lifecycle Project lead by Bruce Mitchel and Terry McMahon will focus on attracting and retaining the best candidates, development of career paths, the USG scale/compensation, equity, and work-life balance. The university aims to be a top 100 employer
- **USG:** This is being done at the University level and the final report should be ready at the end of July. Surveys on USG will be coming soon.
- **Questions of Buildings on Campus:** Committee members were interested to know about the state of buildings and construction on Campus. The Dean suggested bringing Sue Gooding to the next meeting to speak on this topic.
- **White Paper:** UW SMA and response to white paper are available on-line to review. The paper was submitted to the Ministry on September 30/12. Universities were to differentiate themselves. The Government will use the SMA's to determine the distribution of university funding. The government will now be changing and there is no indication of what the outcome will be or a timeline for any action.

- **University Ranking:** Waterloo has dropped in the rankings of Universities. There is need to focus on academics, especially with graduate students. Supervision of students, research citations, reputation, and PhD student ratio need to be strengthened while maintaining the quality of the undergraduate program. The University rankings are important but some are not a true reflection of our performance as methodologies differ.
- **Solutions for Engineering:** In order to provide Engineering Undergraduate students with more practical experience, engineering clinics have been introduced in Mechanical and Mechatronics engineering. It is expected that these clinics will expand into other departments. There is a need to teach students to be engineers and not just how to pass exams. Curriculum changes will also need to be made to stay competitive. Change will bring about the need for more support staff. The Dean is committed to working for the faculty of engineering to secure the resources needed to accomplish our Vision 2015 goals.
- **Online Education:** The government is focusing on on-line learning. Although it is a powerful tool it needs to be done well. Students need to be much more disciplined taking on-line courses. It is important that UW Engineering embrace the technology while finding our place in it. This is a good tool for professional engineers to upgrade themselves but may not be effective in obtaining a full time engineering degree. Currently Waterloo is ranked number 1 in online education in Canada due in part to the WATPD program.

II. **DSAC Chair and Vice-Chair for 2013**

- Kristen Deckert will be the Chair.
- Matt Oliver will be the Vice-Chair.
- There are five of positions to be filled as members will be completing their terms as of December 31, 2012 and Rina Salazar moved from CEE to the DOE.
- Phil Bezaire, Bev Rodgers, Anca Constantinescu and Robert Wagner's terms on the committee are complete.
- Kristen Deckert and Matt Oliver are automatically members of Engineering Faculty Council (EFC) however; two more DSAC reps are needed for EFC. One of these two must also serve as on the EFC Nominations Committee. Decision was deferred to the next meeting.

III. **Guest Speakers**

- Bruce Mitchel and Sue Gooding were suggested as possible guest speakers.

IV. **Other Business**

- **Engineering Safety Committee:** The Dean formed an Engineering Safety Planning Committee to review the overall safety of the faculty to ensure consistency of practice and to meet legislative requirements. There is a concern that there could be people using our facilities without proper safety training. There are also concerns about traffic around Ring Road, especially heading over to E5 and E6. It has been proven that speed bumps and crosswalks are misleading as they create false security. The problem seems

to be the speed of traffic and the distraction of phones and music. Possible solutions discussed were a lower speed limit and instilling a culture of focus on campus.

- The Dean expressed her appreciation for all support staff.

Meeting adjourned at 11:10am

Next meeting: Monday, December 17, 2012 from 1:00 – 2:00 pm., E2 - 3324