Chairs' & Center Directors' Meeting Minutes

Date	December 1, 2014
Location	WCH-Room 443
Attendees	Abbaschian, Reza
	Aguilar, Guillermo
	Boretz, Mitch
	Chrobak, Marek
	Farrell, Jay
	Garay, Javier
	Matsumoto, Mark
	Myung, Nosang
	Najjar, Walid
	Ravishankar, C.
	Vafai, Kambiz
	Venkatram, Akula
	Vullev, Val (for Bir Bhanu)
	Wang, Albert
Absent	Balandin, Alex
	Barth, Matt
	Bhanu, Bir
	Haddon, Robert
	Hartney, Pat

The agenda for the meeting is shown in Appendix 1.

1. Welcome and call for agenda items – Reza

2. Approval of minutes − Mitch

Approved unanimously.

3. Center updates

CEE: The department hosted a hospitality suite at AIChE. About 40 universities did this, and we had a lot of prospective students and maybe faculty.

Two searches are under way: one in air quality modeling, where we have an applicant to move forward, and the joint ME/CEE hire, where we have 39 applicants to review.

ECE: Ad is out in the November issue of IEEE Spectrum, and also ACM. Applications are coming in, and the committee starts looking at them in December. Two target of opportunity cases are in progress. There will be a vote on December 3 on one of them. V

Bioengineering: One search is for the chair (10 applicants, deadline November 30), and one lecturer position. There have been several interviews for lecturer, and we are down to two candidates.

MSE: A search is under way with ME.

CSE: Three faculty positions are open. There are 80 applications as of last week. The deadline is in January, and we expect 300-400, about the same as in previous years. The department hired a lecturer.

UC-Light: Still waiting to hear on our pending MRPI proposal; should hear in January.

Computer Engineering: Recruiting is under way.

ME: Searching for two shared lines, with CEE and MSE. There are 115 applicants. Masa Rao is chair of the search committee for both and has called a meeting for this week.

MSOL: We have approval for entry at every quarter. The campus does not admit during the summer. As such receiving financial aid for students entering during the summer could be an issue. The campus is looking into how this can be resolved. Another issue is the holistic part of the curriculum. Kambiz has a meeting this Friday on this subject. We can ask for individual exceptions, but not blanket exceptions. We also have resolved an issue with how the online program is presented in the course catalog. We are setting things up with Pearson for summer or fall 2015. There have been technical issues, too, but moving to the hyperinstruction room should take care of that, although it has a maximum capacity of 32-38 students. Bourns A-265 is an alternative. Mark suggested Bourns A125, which has about 120 seats. The consensus is that the campus should provide suitable larger classrooms equipped for on-line instruction.

Executive Committee, Venky: Senate meeting is Tuesday 12/2, and will discuss combining CNAS and CHASS. Second, people are concerned about gender-related violence. The UCR students association has voted unanimously to encourage the campus to include gender-related courses as a requirement for graduation. There are 250 eligible courses that would fulfill this requirement. Ravi commented that our ethnic studies course could be expanded to a diversity course that includes gender-related matters. The new requirement at UCLA is a diversity requirement and includes gender.

General comment on faculty search: Other universities are hiring more than in the past. USC has eight computer science openings; University of Virginia is hiring four just in computer architecture.

CNAS/CHASS merger: Reza asked chairs their thoughts. Venky said some people think it's a good thing. The fear is that the dean will emphasize one side over the other. Reza commented that advising for BCOE students might be streamlined with respect to their general education requirements, but Ravi said advising is handled in-house in BCOE. Nosang said there would be one big college (more than half of UCR's faculty) and several small ones. Walid pointed out that

this college would be heavy on undergraduates, while the smaller schools/colleges would have relatively more graduate students. Reza said the Faculty Senate would need to revise a number of bylaws so smaller colleges are represented appropriately. Venky said deans will need to push for this, especially since each committee writes its own bylaws. Guillermo pointed out that getting seats on the committees is good, but we need to be sure that our people attend and can keep up with the volume of work; committees need to be structured so BCOE people actually have influence. Mark pointed out that institutions with large arts and sciences college have weaker academic senates. Strong leadership and budget authority could be issues.

4. Graduate Program – Mark

Mark distributed the current statistics. We are hitting our peak, about 1,000 apps started now, and we expect 1,200 within around the next month. Mark has encouraged grad advisors to contact prospective applicants to complete their current applications.

5. Undergraduate − Ravi

The application deadline has passed. UCOP will forward them to the campus this week, so departments should be ready with their targets very soon. Last year, BCOE sent a letter to very highly ranked applicants telling them that they will be recommended for admission. We will do the same thing this year.

Ravi said CNAS has reached out to inquire about starting a BS/MS in biological sciences modeled on our programs.

This is the second quarter that we have deployed A-Plus. Ravi has found a shocking number of students using the manual option rather than letting the system optimize the sequence of courses. This can throw off the predictions. We might restrict the manual option to make A-Plus work more effectively.

6. Retreat

January 23-25 will be the dates. Four locations are under final consideration. It should be finalized this week. Only 10% of faculty have responded so far, especially regarding committees.

7. Other matters

Reza said we are interviewing for a replacement for Don Davidson and hope to have someone in place in early January.