

MINUTES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Bourns College of Engineering
February 4, 2009, 1:00 P.M.
A171 Bourns Hall

Attending: Frank Vahid, Chair
Gianfranco Ciardo
Dalia Eldessouky
Christian Shelton
Tom Stahovich
Ertem Tuncel
Charles Wyman

Dean Reza Abbaschian, *ex officio*
Associate Dean Mark Matsumoto, *ex officio*
Associate Dean China Ravishankar, *ex officio*

Rod Smith

Absent: Bahman Anvari

Guests: Jerome Schultz (attended meeting in Bahman Anvari's absence)

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes for the meeting of January 7, 2009 were unanimously approved.

3. Announcements

A. Dean

Reza Abbaschian

- The college has been asked to prepare a budget scenario to include 10% (2 million) and 15% (2.9 million) budget cuts. These cuts would include salaries and expenses. No decisions have been made because the college is waiting on department recommendations. Budget scenarios are due by February 20th. In discussion amongst the committee members, it was mentioned that it would be beneficial for the committee to send a message to the chancellor on behalf of the faculty regarding suggestions on how to cope with the current budget crisis. It was decided that the Chair will draft a letter to the Chancellor to share with the faculty suggesting the possibility of faculty salaries supported by outside funding and keeping faculty incentives.

B. Associate Deans

China Ravishankar

- Undergraduate admits are up from last year. College brochures will be sent out. The College is also trying to locate resources to call the students that have been admitted.
-The college is planning an event for the Regent Scholars. It is anticipated 30-40 students will attend (100-150 people total including the students and their parents). These students are not yet admitted. The event will include lab tours and demonstrations.
-Scholarship award funding is down.

Mark Matsumoto

- The availability of graduate funding may be slashed so requests should be submitted as soon as possible. The number of graduate applications are up from last year. Domestic application numbers are up as well by 6-7%.

C. Chair

4. Engineering Students' Vital Statistics

-Rod Smith prepared a summary of the COE student body broken down by program up to the fall 2008 quarter. There were several observations made by the committee members such as Freshman student bodies are being challenged, there was a plunge in enrollment numbers for the 2005-2006 academic year, but the numbers have largely increased in subsequent years, and that Engineering students transfer to CHASS because they are not meeting the requirements as an engineering major. It was mentioned that the statistical data is an important tool to gauge how students are doing as well as to detect bizarre situations.

5. New/Continued Business

A. Foundations of Engineering Course Sequence

- A list of all Math 9A, 9B, and 9C instructors for the past four years was provided to the committee members. The list identifies that the majority of the instructors are Visiting Assistant Professors. There is no conformity in the teaching of these courses among instructors. The Executive Committee Chair shared this list with the Dean and Divisional Associate Dean of CNAS. The Dean of CNAS mentioned that he would like to take the funding used to hire Visiting Assistant Professors and hire applied Mathematicians to teach the courses instead.

The Executive Committee Chair also met with David Fairris, Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education regarding the foundations of engineering course sequence. David Fairris thought the course sequence was an excellent idea since it would not be taking the FTE away from the Math Department. It is possible for COE faculty to teach the courses, but even if the existing math instructors are used, COE could ensure quality control, consistency in exams, and the integration of calculus and physics, etc. due to the fact that the ownership of these courses belongs to COE.

The committee was asked what they thought about the sequence. It was decided that a small committee should be formed to look into the different philosophies of teaching as well as innovative ways of teaching that will enhance students learning. Associate Dean Chinya Ravishankar will check with members of a previous committee to see if there is any interest in serving on this one.

B. CEP Response to Physics and Foreign Language AP Credit Proposal

- CEP approved all of the AP revisions, but denied the changes to foreign language and physics. CEP denied the proposed foreign language changes because they stated it is inconsistent with the campus-wide practice. It was mentioned that CNAS does not award AP credit for foreign language, but they do allow humanities breadth credit for foreign language taken at UCR. There is also precedent for this at other UC campuses. Given this information, it was suggested that the Executive Committee go back to CEP with the evidence and request that humanities breadth be allowed for foreign language without the previous language that stated credit may be awarded after language placement and individual counseling. The Executive Committee voted unanimously all in favor to go back to CEP with the evidence mentioned above.

CEP denied the physics changes due to the fact that the proposed was not consistent with the Physics Department policy. It was mentioned that the Physics Department and the College Board are in disagreement over high school physics courses being equivalent to Physics 40 courses. The Executive Committee Chair will look at other UC campuses AP credit for Physics and draft a letter based on his findings.

C. Photo Rosters

- As mentioned at the last meeting, BCOE instructors would like to have access the student photos on their rosters. Computing and Communications as well as the Undergraduate Office of Education thought this was a good idea. The Vice Chancellor's Office of Student Affairs thought the collection of data could violate privacy issues, but it was explained that only access would be given to the instructor. Christian Shelton will meet with a group of individuals in the next few weeks to discuss this issue further.

D. Writing Across the Curriculum

- The University Writing Program is proposing "Writing Across the Curriculum" that includes a 2-unit writing course for each college combined with a current 4-unit course in order to obtain credit for

applied writing to be taken in place of ENGL 1C. The Senate Chair Anthony Norman has asked for the Executive Committee's review and comments regarding the proposal. It was mentioned that the proposed 2-unit engineering course is not necessary since the college offers ENGR 180. Resources could be given to enhance ENGR 180 rather than to create the new course. The Executive Committee Chair will reply to the Senate Chair informing him of the Executive Committee's support for the program. The Chair will also inform him that a 2-unit writing course is already in place in the college and that it is the Executive Committee's recommendation that resources be offered for the existing course rather than for a proposed course. The Chair will also look into why there was no Engineering representation on the "Writing Across the Curriculum" committee.

E. Regulation 810(A)

- It was mentioned that the purpose of this regulation change is to allow courses that are taken through extension at other UC campuses count toward a student's GPA at UCR. Previously only courses taken through UCR extension would count toward a student's GPA at UCR. A question was raised if this change would cause any issues with the Masters of Engineering program. It was mentioned that it would not. The Executive Committee voted unanimously in favor of the proposed change.

F. Bioengineering BS/MS Proposal

- This proposal is much like the four other proposals reviewed last year with the difference being the four core courses are different for each department. The Executive Committee voted unanimously in favor of the Bioengineering BS/MA program proposal. The proposal will be forwarded to the Graduate Council for review.

G. New Course – BIEN 165

- The proposed new course BIEN 165 "Biomolecular Engineering" was created to be offered as one of the Technical Electives in order to satisfy the ABET requirement. The Executive Committee voted unanimously in favor of the course. The course proposal will be forwarded to the Committee on Courses for review.

H. Midterm Grading Policy

- This agenda item was tabled due to lack of time.

I. General Education Reform

- The Academic Senate has informed the Executive Committee that they are only pursuing one of the two proposed general education pilot programs from BCOE. The Senate is moving forward with the proposed pilot for BCOE majors. Should the Executive Committee push for both the BCOE and non-BCOE proposed programs to be considered for the pilot?

It was discussed that the non-BCOE program would be a popular selection. The proposed courses that are included in the proposal will be created regardless of the outcome of the pilot.

It was decided that the Executive Committee will move forward with just the proposed pilot for BCOE majors as suggested by the Academic Senate with the understanding that it will not be included in the pilot, but considered for inclusion in the long run.

J. Course Approval Process

- The Executive Committee Chair met with Bracken Daily and LaRae Lundgren. They are of the understanding that the current mechanism used in the course approval process might not be working well. The Chair was informed by Bracken and LaRae that a second deadline in January has been added in addition to the one in December to submit some of the course proposals. They are also trying to develop a cleaner flow from the department and college approvals. There are catalog and committee on courses issues to be considered so it is important to know who to address regarding particular issues. It was mentioned the college needs more support to ensure it is done properly.

It was also mentioned that the Mechanical Engineering Department is still facing difficulties with their courses going through. The Chair recommended the department forward the courses to him so that he can discuss them with Bracken and LaRae.

K. Classroom Assignments

- Some instructors have their courses scheduled in rooms that are much larger than needed based on the course enrollment. Some of these rooms could be used for courses with a much larger enrollment. It was mentioned that this would most likely be an academic scheduling issue. This item will be added pending business.

6. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00p.m.