To the Faculty Legislature, Santa Barbara Division:

The following summarizes the business of the College of Engineering Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) for 2005-06.

Summary of Actions:

Program Reviews and Proposals

1. **Mechanical Engineering Program Review**
   The Committee discussed the self-assessment portion of the document prepared for the ME Department’s Program Review Panel (PRP) and provided comments and questions to the PRP in preparation for the External Review Committee’s site visit. Following their visit, the Committee reviewed the ERC report and the Department’s response to that report and submitted comments.

2. **Computer Science B.A. proposal** – The Committee reviewed a proposal from the Computer Science Department which will add emphasis tracks to the bachelor of arts program. The tracks, in Computational Geography and Computational Biology, will add flexibility and dimension to the existing program. The proposal, supported by the Geography and Biology Departments, was approved by the College of Engineering and Letters and Science FECs, and ultimately by the Undergraduate Council.

Curriculum Changes and Updates

1. **Proposed changes with mathematics courses**
   The Math sequence proposal which was carried over from last year was supported by the Committee for further investigation, but ultimately tabled.

2. **General Education Requirements**
   The Committee approved the proposal to 1) expand the courses which can be used to fulfill the general education depth requirement and 2) change the courses acceptable to fulfill the Area A requirement. These changes will be effective Fall 2006.

3. **Dean’s Honors**
   A proposal was approved to change the criteria used to determine dean’s honors status, as they pertain to IP graded courses. Proposal is pending Undergraduate Council approval.

4. **Electrical Engineering curriculum**
   Removed CS 40 as a required course for EE majors and add ECE 188 – Senior Electrical Engineering Project. Eliminated the ENGR 5A-B-C sequence and replaced with a free elective course.

5. **Computer Engineering curriculum**
   Replaced ENGR 5A requirement with ECE 1, a freshman survey course.

6. **Mechanical Engineering curriculum**
   Added Environmental Studies 105 (Solar and Renewable Energy) to their list of elective courses.

7. **Chemical Engineering curriculum**
   Changed track requirement to a 12 unit technical elective requirement to allow students more flexibility. Changed Chemistry 109A-B-C to be counted toward the lower-division instead of upper-division.
Changes to Committee membership

1. The Committee voted to include both an undergraduate and graduate student representative to attend the Executive Committee meetings, as non-voting members; the student representatives are the Engineering Student Council (ESC) Chair and the ESC Graduate Student Representative.

Review of Policies and Proposals

1. Task Force for the Implementation of Workload Reporting Policy
   The Committee reviewed the findings of the Task Force for the Implementation of Workload Policy, and support their efforts to better document the teaching activities of faculty. The Committee nominated a committee member to serve on the workgroup to implement these recommendations.

2. Complete Withdrawals
   A proposal was reviewed to change the deadline for complete withdrawals from the last day of the quarter to the last day of instruction. The Committee supported this change, and a uniform campus policy.

3. Johns Hopkins University's Engineering Innovation Program
   The College received a proposal from Johns Hopkins to run a summer program on our campus in conjunction with the MESA Program. Ultimately the program was endorsed and was scheduled to begin during Summer 2006.

4. College of Creative Studies Majors
   A proposal to reinstate the College of Creative Studies emphases to the status of majors was reviewed by the Committee, and the Chair drafted a response to the Undergraduate Council. The Committee members strongly supported this proposal and voted that these emphases should be changed to major status.

5. Comments on Teaching Associates
   The Committee reviewed the potential changes to the Teaching Associate policy. They articulated that it is reasonable that the Undergraduate Council should have similar oversight over teaching associates for lower- and upper-division courses, but this could also be achieved by removing the council's oversight over the upper-division courses. An overwhelming majority felt that the department nominating the teaching associate is well positioned to judge the qualifications of the student and that a review by the Graduate Division and the corresponding Dean's office suffices to complete the approval process. Further approval by the Undergraduate Council makes the process overly complex without significant additional benefit to the students.

   Regarding the second issue, of determining under what circumstances Teaching Associates should be allowed to teach courses, although it would be beneficial to have more ladder faculty teaching undergraduate classes, when faculty is not available it is often preferable to appoint a PhD student over an external lecturer. Many times the student is more qualified because she/he might have been Teaching Assistant for the class previously. In view of this, the Committee does not encourage actions by the Undergraduate Council that would limit the choices available to the departments in selecting the best available instructors for course for which ladder faculty is not available.
Committee members:

Elliott Brown  Electrical and Computer Engineering
Frank Doyle (Vice Chair) Chemical Engineering
Amr El Abbadi Computer Science
Joao Hespanha (Chair) Electrical and Computer Engineering
Fred Milstein Mechanical Engineering
Shuji Nakamura Materials
Phil Pincus Materials
Susannah Scott Chemical Engineering
Matthew Tirrell Dean (Ex Officio)
Kim Turner Mechanical Engineering
Wim van Dam Computer Science
Rene Giraudo Undergraduate Student Representative
Kari Lukes Graduate Student Representative