

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING FACULTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT: 2010-11

To the Faculty Legislature, Santa Barbara Division:

The following summarizes the business of the College of Engineering Faculty Executive Committee (FEC) for 2010-11.

Summary of Actions:

Program Reviews and Proposals

1. **Elimination of Pre-Major** – The Computer Engineering faculty requested that the pre-major be eliminated for their program; FEC supported this change.
2. **Graduate Program in Management Practice certificate** – A proposal to update the requirements for the GPMP certificate to correspond with current practice was reviewed and approved.
3. **Program Review** – The committee reviewed and commented on the findings of the Computer Science Department PRP review.
4. **Technology Management Program** – A new certificate program, which will be a joint venture with TMP and Extension was endorsed. The proposed certificate will be awarded by UCSB Extension.
5. **WASC Capacity Preparatory Review report** – The WASC report was reviewed and comments were submitted.

Research Centers

1. **Center for Scientific Computing** – A proposal to establish a Center for Scientific Computing was revisited by the committee; it was also reviewed last academic year.
2. **Center for Biological Engineering and Science** – A proposal to create the Center for Biological Engineering and Science was enthusiastically supported and approved by the committee last year; the proposal was also revisited this year.
3. **Center for Marine Assessment and Planning** – The proposal to establish the Center for Marine Assessment and Planning was endorsed.
4. **Center for CyberSecurity** – FEC strongly supported the creation of the Center for CyberSecurity, agreeing with Computer Science Chair that “the creation of the center is very timely, and even overdue.” The security group’s work is highly regarded by the national and international research communities and is well supported by significant extramural funding.
5. **Center for Geometric Computation** – A proposal to establish the Center for Geometric Computation was endorsed. The proposed center will provide a focus for faculty from different disciplines who are conducting research in applications of geometric computation and algorithmic foundations of networked robots.
6. **Center for California Languages and Culture** – Although the activities of the Center do not appear to have a direct impact on the College of Engineering, FEC supports the efforts of the center’s director and faculty.
7. **Demography Center** – A proposal to create the Leonard and Gretchan Broom Center for Demography was reviewed and supported by the committee.
8. **Reading Center in the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education** – A proposal to create this Reading Center was supported by the FEC.

Review of Policies and Proposals

1. **Proposal for Renaming Fees as Tuition** – The systemwide proposal to rename fees as tuition was reviewed. FEC's understanding is that the renaming would not alter any of the rules about how they are determined, applied, or used, thus supported the proposal.
2. **UC Commission on the Future** – FEC is concerned that some of the recommendations in both the Academic Council resolution and the UCLA memo take an across-the-board, one-size-fits-all approach to limits and downsizing. FEC realizes that during these tough financial times, difficult decisions will be required, but it is important to take into account the merits of the programs and units involved, and the sometimes-differing needs of the individual campuses. The primary concern FEC has applies to the Academic Council's recommendation to emphasize the achievement of downsizing through attrition; in some cases it may be more appropriate to have selective growth in particular units, at the expense of shrinkage in other areas, depending on where attrition is taking place within departments and colleges. There is also concerned with the particular emphasis in the Academic Council's recommendations to forego new building and capital investment. This one-size-fits-all recommendation is not uniformly appropriate across the campuses.
3. **Proposed Sustainability Policies** – FEC supports the efforts of the UCSB Sustainability Committee to draft guidelines and create specific policies to address sustainability issues in a variety of areas for campus. The primary concern FEC has about these policies is with the budget implications, in particular the additional costs required in Green Building Design to meet the "minimum standard equivalent to a LEED NC Silver rating." Enforcement of these policies could have a very significant impact, especially on laboratory buildings and smaller building renovations, where budget allocations are very limited.
4. **Funding Stream proposal** – A Systemwide proposal for changing funding streams for financial support to campuses was reviewed. FEC did not have any technical comments to provide, but requested that as the proposal goes forward, that a good-faith effort be made at the Campus level to communicate to the faculty its outline and consequences.
5. **Station Q proposal** – This Think Tank proposal, sponsored by Microsoft, to support faculty research was discussed. On the whole, implementation of the proposal as stated (limited to 3-5) would seem to have little impact on the College of Engineering. FEC does not question the assertion that the few distinguished researchers covered by the specific proposal would be positive additions to the UCSB faculty, but is concerned about the precedent this action would set for future commercially-funded centers, and about the lack of congruence between the procedure in this proposal and the fundamental model of hiring tenured faculty at UCSB.
6. **Self-Supporting Graduate Degree programs** – The proposal to update systemwide policy on self-supporting graduate programs was discussed. FEC agreed that a revision is necessary and timely, since the current policy no longer reflects actual practice, but there is concern that, if such programs become a significant part of UC's funding model, campuses without large local populations to draw upon could be disadvantaged.
7. **Campus Five Year Perspective** – The perspective was reviewed and FEC felt the updated guidelines provide a better means for campus planning, especially with the specification of removing inactive programs after a three-year period. There were no objections to any of the currently listed items on the current five-year plan.
8. **On-Line Education Project** – A systemwide proposal to develop on-line courses for undergraduate students. The impact of this project on the College of Engineering undergraduate programs is not clear, as it is dependent upon which courses are included as part of the project. As it is a systemwide proposal, care needs to be taken that any developed courses would have standardize articulations across the UC campuses.

9. **Operational Effectiveness Final Summary** – This report summarized studies on campus regarding the operations of key units and possible consolidation of operations with the goal of reducing costs and effectiveness. FEC submitted comments about the four focus areas, and their particular concerns about the IT ideas being proposed.
10. **Student-Initiated Democratic Education (SIDE) Proposal** – FEC supports motivated undergraduates who are interested in offering seminar courses and gaining teaching experience during their academic career. Although the proposal does not include courses to be offered in the College of Engineering, FEC supports College of Engineering students being able to participate in SIDE seminars.
11. **On-Line Delivery of ESCI** – A proposal to develop an on-line system for ESCI course evaluations was reviewed. FEC believes that the current antiquated system needs to be updated, but has concerns about future participation rates. A true pilot program is encouraged before transitioning to a new system.
12. **Systemwide review of Library Planning Task Force Report** – FEC felt that there was not much concrete evidence in the proposal for planning on how to address the projected short-falls. There were also concerns about 1) the importance of making good decisions about open access journals, given the future budget situation it is hoped that it would be possible to get on-line publications accounts on a systemwide basis; and 2) journals that require authors to pay a publication fee, as such a model should be discouraged since it places a significant burden on faculty if they are required to pay for their papers to be published.

Committee members:

Kevin Almeroth	Computer Science
Glenn Beltz	Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies (Ex Officio)
Francesco Bullo	Mechanical Engineering
Larry Coldren	Dean (Ex Officio)
John Gilbert	Computer Science (Chair)
Gary Leal	Chemical Engineering
Eckart Meiburg	Mechanical Engineering
Chris Palmstrom	Electrical and Computer Engineering
Baron Peters	Chemical Engineering
Tresa Pollock	Materials
Ken Rose	Electrical and Computer Engineering
Omar Saleh	Materials
Niloufar Pourian	Graduate Representative
Sergio Sanchez	Undergraduate Representative