Minutes of the SoE Faculty Meeting
Wednesday, May 7, 2008
UTEB 150

Present: See attached attendance sheet.

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm. Mark Aindow proposed a motion that the minutes of the SoE faculty meeting held on February 8th, 2008, which were circulated to the faculty by Email in March, be approved.

- The motion was put up for vote and then approved unanimously.

- Welcome and Announcements (M. Choi).

Dean Choi welcomed the faculty and staff to the meeting. He congratulated those SoE faculty members who had been promoted to Associate Professor with tenure or to Full Professor. He then announced the following awards/honors:

- The 2008 IEEE Dennis J. Picard Medal to Yaakov Bar-Shalom.
- A Guggenheim Fellowship and the SPIE Technology Achievement Award to Bahram Javidi.
- The SPE International Award to Bob Weiss.
- An ONR Young Investigator Award to Jun-Hong Cui.
- A NASA New Investigator Award to Mekonnen Gebremichael.

Dean Choi also reported the following additions to the School:

- Faculty: George Rossetti and Brian Willis will be joining the CMBE faculty as Associate Professors; in Mechanical Engineering Robert Gao will be a Full Professor and will fill the Pratt & Whitney Chair, Tianfeng Lu will be joining as an Assistant Professor. There are several other outstanding offers to faculty members in CMBE, CEE, and MEM.
- Staff: Christopher Joliat will be the new Director of Development, Michael McCarthy will become the Assistant Director of Development, and Kerrie Alberts will hold the new position of Grants Development Officer.
- CT Transportation Institute: James Mahoney has been named as the new Executive Program Director.
- DHS Center of Excellence in Transportation Security: Associate Dean Anwar and Erling Smith have been named as the co-Directors of the new Center.

- Motion to Award Degrees (M. Wood).

Assistant Dean Wood proposed a motion that the faculty recommend to the Board of Trustees that they grant the degrees of Bachelor of Science in Engineering and Bachelor of Science degree to the students named on the attached list.

- The motion was put up for vote and then approved unanimously.

- DHS Center of Excellence in Transportation Security (M. Anwar).

Associate Dean Anwar gave a brief presentation on the activities of new DHS Center of Excellence in Transportation Security. A copy of the slides is attached. This Center
comprises a consortium of seven colleges with UConn serving as the lead and having primary responsibility for co-ordinating the research focus of the consortium. The main focus areas were reviewed and their relationship to the existing research infrastructure was highlighted. There will be a site visit to UConn by key DHS personnel on May 12-13 and interested faculty were encouraged to present their research ideas to the visitors.

- **SoE Research Advisory Committee Report (Y. Bar-Shalom).**
  Yaakov Bar-Shalom presented a summary of the recommendations from the SoE Research Advisory Committee. A copy of the slides is attached. The Committee had identified the following as key strategic objectives: recruiting, space, mentoring, and retaining dynamic, flexible, entrepreneurial, and research productive faculty members. The suggestions included:
  - Focusing resources on thrust areas to build on our strengths.
  - Use of endowed positions to retain top faculty.
  - Pushing for additional space for SoE.
  - New policies for mentoring of junior faculty.
  - New policies for PTR to give a consistent approach across SoE.
  - New approaches to promote research and the overall reputation of SoE.
  - Research areas in which enhanced dialogue between researchers could help to promote interdisciplinary multi-investigator proposals.
  Dean Choi commended the Committee for performing such a thorough review and requested that the recommendations be prioritized for further discussion at the next SoE faculty meeting.

- **MEng Task Force Report (B. Cetegen).**
  Baki Cetegen presented a report from the MEng Task Force. A copy of the slides is attached. The goals and history of the program were reviewed and the mutual benefits of the program to SoE and the sponsoring companies (in particular UTC) were highlighted. It was noted that most of the enrollment had been students in the ME and MSE areas and that there were significant opportunities for the other SoE programs and departments to participate. The increased offerings from other universities was noted and it was suggested that we may need to consider distance delivery options if we are to compete with these other institutions.

- **International Programs Task Force Report (R. Ammar).**
  Reda Ammar presented a report from the International Programs Task Force. A copy of the slides is attached. The task force identified five ways in which SoE could meet its goal of preparing graduates to be cognizant of different cultures, expanding their foreign language skills, and making them aware of global issues. These are:
  - Recruiting international students to SoE.
  - Promoting educational experience through study abroad.
  - Promoting international research partnerships.
  - Establishing educational partnerships (joint degree or dual degree).
  - Developing international engineering training and certificate programs.
• **Catalog, Course and Curriculum Issues (M. Wood).**

Assistant Dean Wood reported that the School of Engineering Curricula and Courses Committee had approved the Program/Catalog changes listed in the attached report for Biomedical Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering. He proposed a motion that these changes be approved by the faculty.

- The motion was put up for vote and then approved by a majority of the faculty with one abstention.

Assistant Dean Wood reported that an expanded School of Engineering Curricula and Courses Committee had been examining the freshmen curriculum with particular emphasis on issues relating to promotion/retention. A copy of the slides is attached. For these purposes three subcommittees have been established:

- A subcommittee to consider freshmen Physics and Chemistry classes.
- A subcommittee on computing in the freshmen curriculum, with emphasis on CSE123C.
- A subcommittee on ENGR100, ENGR166, MEM151 and ECE110.

• **Graduate Research Assistant Tuition on Grants (K. Kazerounian).**

Kazem Kazerounian reported that the issue of tuition for graduate research assistants being charged to research grants had been raised again at the University Research Advisory Council. The RAC had been given the impression that a decision had been taken to charge tuition but the details had yet to be worked out. A working committee in the Faculty Senate has been established to consider the implications of this change and there is some pressure from the University administration for this group to report by the end of the year (rather than in spring of 2009 as originally suggested). There were many questions from the faculty but most of these could not be answered categorically because there is, as yet, no specific proposal on this issue. Concerns were expressed by some of the junior faculty about the potential impact of this change upon their ability to meet targets for grants, students, etc in the tenure review process.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Mark Aindow