

Comments from L. Leone at College Faculty Meeting 10/13/05  
(pinch-hitting for Tom Wolff)

1. Comments on remodeling of 1410 and 1415 EB. Tom Wolff and Denise Barnstead move to 1415, and a new adviser office created from waiting area space in 1410. Cynthia Sarver, new Assistant to the Dean for Student Services, will now handle student focused issues (ie. late drops, admission appeals, withdrawals, student illness / family emergencies etc) previously handled by Tom. Cynthia is located in Tom's old office in 1410. Jim Novak, Career Services and Placement field Representative also moves to 1410 adjacent the Co-op Office.
2. The following is a document prepared by Tom Wolff concerning the Engineering Residential Program discussed earlier in the meeting.

*Talking points for Enhanced Engineering Residential Program...*

#### PREMISE – EARLY ENGINEERING PROGRAMS

- To enhance engagement and retention, many to most engineering programs have a freshman or “early” engineering program that connects students to group-based, project-based experiences. The older model had them completing much of calculus, physics, chemistry, etc before engineering courses, and interest and understanding were lost.
- Most of these programs somehow combine and connect several of the following: Math, physics, programming, problem solving, fabrication, CAD, communication, presentation skills, team skills.
- MSU has been “late,” and its lateness was closely related to MSU’s junior admission model. This made investment in such program unattractive. The “admit when ready” initiative and declining enrollments are changing that picture.
- Despite the previous disincentives, the past few years have seen all departments initiate some form of early engagement course in their major. They are very different in formats, course models, etc., and some are still “pilots.”

#### PREMISE – LIVING / LEARNING PROGRAMS

- MSU is a leader in living-learning programs, arrangements to put students with like interests in a common living and social environment, and in common class sections. Some are degree programs, some are specializations, and some are simply scheduling and living arrangements.
- MSU sees these as a “jewel” and supports expansion.
- The ROSES program, joint with Natural Science and Agriculture, has Engineering as the lead. It is 13 years old, and a freshman-only program. It centers on community, with common classes, tutors, peer leaders, and a one credit freshman seminar. It has never had much connection to the regular faculty, and no connection to mainstream engineering courses.

- Despite the “residential” title, most students move out of these dorms by the third year, but remain connected to the program.

## PROPOSAL – AN EXPANDED ENGINEERING RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

- Despite our referring to it as a “residential college,” the proposal is for a residential program. We would not have a separate dean.
- We propose an expanded residential program that would integrate dedicated housing with on-site project-based freshman engineering, classrooms, offices for faculty, staff and advisors, computing and shop facilities, study lounges, tutoring, and space for student organizations. Juniors and seniors who leave the residence hall would gravitate here as a meeting place. Seniors would be hired as instructional aids to mentor freshman teams.

## NEEDS

- Hall location convenient to engineering (Shaw, Wilson or Holden).
- Space for all activities above
- Designated freshman faculty, Academic Program Director, Residential Program Director (both residential life and advising background).
- Rooms for 400 freshmen, 350 sophomores, 200 upperclassmen.

## ISSUES

- Multiple starting points in math (freshmen start at 1825, 103, 116, 132, 133, 234)
- Specifically, should the program provide an alternate path for those starting in 1825 (remedial algebra)? Or should they be excluded? The integrated freshman courses would normally start with College Algebra or Calculus I. This question is strongly related to diversity of the program.
- A similar issue arises for those coming in with large numbers of AP credits.
- Participation for those who need or wish to live in other halls (athletes, honors, drug and alcohol-free)

## TIMETABLE ISSUES

- Curricular development – which of the multiple course models do departments support? Integrated courses across disciplines? Disciplinary picks? Mix?
  - Curricular approvals – one year
  - Renovation of facilities. After selection, one year planning, one year construction.
3. Undergraduate research proposal. As part of the Quality Fund Initiative, UGS has submitted a proposal for consideration to double the number of undergraduate research opportunities including Professorial Assistantships (for incoming freshmen, in conjunction with Honors College); research opportunities for advanced undergraduates, and for those associated with project activities in the Diversity Programs Office.

4. Leone commented that Wolff would be meeting with the Chair's Group in the near future to discuss a significant drop in MSU's engineering enrollment. Freshmen enrollments have dropped 30% over the last four years. This fact will drive several issues and decisions that need to be made by College administrators.