

College of Engineering
Minutes of the Fall 2006 Faculty Meeting (DRAFT)
Thursday, 12 October 2006

1. **Minutes.** The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.
2. **New Faculty.** New COE faculty and staff members were introduced by their respective chairpersons or other department representatives.
3. **Charitable Campaign.** Tiffany Norwood gave a short presentation on the MSU Community Charitable Campaign and described ways in which faculty and staff can contribute.
4. **Reports.** Year-end reports from College and University committees have been made available at <http://www.egr.msu.edu/egr/about/committee/reports.php>. There were no comments or questions on the reports.
5. **Update on College Activities.** Dean Udpa summarized several ongoing activities and initiatives:
 - a. *Funding.* The College did exceedingly well in the recent 21st Century Jobs Fund competition. Out of \$13M awarded to MSU-related projects, \$10.1M was awarded for COE projects. The U.S. Congress approved \$5.5M in funding for the MSU Composite Vehicle Research Center. The founding faculty members include Professors Gary Cloud, Lawrence Drzal, Dahsin Liu and Eann Patterson.
 - b. *Associate Dean position.* Professor Leo Kempel has been appointed Associate Dean for Special Initiatives and will be responsible for establishing better connections with funding agencies, facilitating connections between faculty members and program managers, working to enhance MSU visibility among funding agencies and initiating and coordinating major collaborative research activities.
 - c. *Facilities.* Extensions to the Engineering Research Complex are underway. In EB, room 1340 is being converted into the new Student Services Center, the EB foyer will be renovated, and the west side of the building will be converted into the entrance with a circle drive.
 - d. *Challenges.* We need to elevate the standards for undergraduates and graduate students across the College; plans from each department will be requested. We also need to enhance our connections to prospective employers of our students, which is important to student placement and program/department rankings.
6. **Undergraduate Studies.** Associate Dean Wolff updated the faculty on several items:
 - a. *Enrollment.* While enrollments have dropped for several years, the situation appears to be improving with the new freshman class. Also, the average SAT scores have increased.

- b. *Placement and Services.* The design of the new Student Services Center (a.k.a. Student Opportunity Center) is under evaluation. The MSU Career Gallery earlier this month had participation from 152 employers, up from 92 two years ago.
 - c. *Undergraduate Research.* The University is making a significant investment in undergraduate research. The number of summer research assistantships is now 50, up from 30.
 - d. *Residential College.* Plans for the Residential College are progressing. The Task Force has worked on a variety of issues, including revisions to the curriculum. An APPR request is planned for funding building renovation.
7. **Graduate Studies and Research.** Associate Dean Rosenberg updated the faculty on the following items:
- a. *Students.* In 2005, 85% of the admitted students eventually enrolled at MSU. The number of PhD students is up, while the number of MS students has declined. The number of doctorates awarded is at an all-time high.
 - b. *Funding.* Both the number of new grants and total research expenditures are up. University research initiatives dovetail well with COE strengths.
8. **Special Initiatives.** Associate Dean Kempel reported to the faculty on his recent visit to Washington.
9. **Updated Documents.** Professor Lyles noted that changes to the Faculty Handbook and Promotion and Tenure forms, approved by the faculty in Spring 2006, are in place and should be used in the current P&T cycle.
10. **Public Comment Session.** The floor was opened for discussion of issues and ideas faculty believe are pertinent to the College community. Topics discussed included uniformity of department welcome signs, questions about faculty input on the process of forming the residential college, benefits of the residential college in recruitment, and increased emphasis on undergraduate research.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil McKinley