MINUTES

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING FACULTY ORGANIZATION (CEFO)

Thursday, February 16, 2012, 12:30 PM

Cameron Building, Room 101

The following individuals signed the attendance sheet:

- CIVIL ENGINEERING: J. Bowen, J. Gergely, J. Graham, R. Janardhanam, M. Kane, V. Ogunro, M. Pando, S. Pulugurtha, W. Saunders, K. Warren, D. Young
- ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING: N. Bousaba, C. Hargrove, M. Hasan, M. Miri, A. Mukherjee, T. Weldon
- ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT: C. Lim, E. Ozelkan
- MECHANICAL ENGINEERING AND ENGINEERING SCIENCE: K. Lawton, C.Y. Lee, E. Morse, B. Mullany, J. Raquet, A. Soliman, K. Weaver, Q. Wei
- OSDS: L. Thurman
- GUESTS: None

Documented attendance: 54 total.

1. Welcome
CEFO president Martin Kane called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes (CEFO Secretary Barry Sherlock)
A motion to approve the minutes of the February 16, 2012 CEFO meeting was seconded and passed. Past minutes are kept on the CEFO website at [http://www.coe.uncc.edu/faculty-and-staff/coe-faculty-organization.html](http://www.coe.uncc.edu/faculty-and-staff/coe-faculty-organization.html)

3. College Committees Update (CEFO President-Elect Jeff Kimble)
The annual elections to University and College committees go live on April 13th. Results will be emailed to COE faculty once they are available.

4. Technology Entrepreneurship Course (Charles Lee/Paul Wetenhall)
A new course on Technology Entrepreneurship will be offered through the MEES program. It will be a 3 credit-hour course offered in Fall for engineering graduate students plus selected undergraduates with permission. The thrust of the course will be on how to think entrepreneurially. It will be structured as lectures plus frequent guest speakers (entrepreneurs, investors, etc.) and will be very practically oriented. There will be a team project involving opportunity assessment.
The course instructor will be Paul Wetenhall, who is president and executive director of the Ben Craig Center, UNC Charlotte’s business incubator. He has most recently served as president and a director of High Tech Rochester Inc. (HTR), a non-profit organization that assists researchers with technology commercialization and provides business guidance to entrepreneurs and manufacturers. He is also a lecturer in entrepreneurship at the University of Rochester’s William E. Simon Graduate School of Business. He has assisted the business development of over 100 early-stage technology clients.

5. Miscellaneous matters (Dean Robert Johnson)
   - **Graduate Tuition:** Dean Johnson has prepared a document recommending a graduate tuition increase. The increase is being implemented, but it could be a year before we see any money.
   - **Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU):** Dean Johnson has prepared a document asking the Provost to support a REU program in Summer for 100 students. It is not yet clear whether this will go ahead.
   - **Student Success Working Group:** The UNCC campus has taken a budget hit for not meeting its retention goals. Dean Johnson and Associate Dean Tolley participate in the Provost’s Student Success Working Group. This is aimed at improving the freshman experience thereby increasing retention.
   - **Freshman Performance:** Dean Johnson said that he would like to see a policy implemented whereby any Engineering student who obtains less than a 1.5 GPA in their first semester at UNCC will be out of the College. To be readmitted, such a student would need to improve their GPA to 2.5 or higher. To illustrate that such a policy is unlikely to adversely affect the College, Dean Johnson stated that in Fall 2011, 42 students (about 10-15% of the total) had GPAs less than 1.5. Only three of these 42 students succeeded in getting back into good standing. Two of the three changed major; the third is still an Engineering major but remains on probation.

6. MS in Applied Energy and Electromechanical Systems proposal
The Engineering Graduate Committee (EGC) placed this proposal on the CEFO consent calendar on April 6. An objection to the proposal was emailed to CEFO President Kane on April 9. This caused a motion to approve the proposal to be placed before CEFO. The motion was seconded. After discussion regarding procedural matters and the use of the consent calendar, CEFO President Kane called for questions and discussion about the content of the proposal. A discussion followed, during which Dr. Brizendine addressed concerns that were raised. President Kane called for further comments, and there were none. President Kane then called for a vote. Dr. Janardhanam called for a quorum. It was determined that a quorum was not present. The vote will therefore be conducted electronically.

7. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.