



CORNELL

College of Engineering

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**Engineering College Council  
Meeting Notes**

**April 10 and 11, 2002**

The Engineering College Council (ECC) met in Ithaca on April 10 and 11, 2002. The following ECC members were present.

Richard Aubrecht  
Charles Brown  
Jay Carter  
Tim Costello  
Harold Craighead  
Kent Fuchs  
Jim Hauslein  
David Hodges  
Bill Hudson  
Michael Isaacson

Keith Kennedy  
Randall Ledford  
Armando Olivera  
Justin Rattner  
Rebecca Robertson  
Neil Schilke  
Bill Shreve  
Roger Strauch  
Sherri Stuewer  
Jan Suwinski

The Council was extremely impressed by the presentation of the younger faculty and commends the College for its efforts at increasing the number of women and underrepresented minority in the faculty ranks. The quality of the junior faculty presenting was quite impressive.

The Council congratulated the Interim Dean, Harold Craighead for progress made in the last year in creating more dialogue between the College, Day Hall and other Colleges. The Council is concerned about the decrease in the number of engineering faculty over the last five years and stressed the need to prevent any further decrease. The Council noted the improvement in the US News and World Report rankings of the Engineering College this year and feels that the College is on the right track to improving its stature, but will not be able to do so if the number of faculty decreases.

The Council appreciated the update by President Rawlings on the state of the university and the College's role within it. It is also gratified to see nanotechnology as one of the university's priority areas as evidenced by the funding for Duffield Hall. The Council is enthusiastic about the role the College can play in this University priority. The Council also stressed the need to secure funding for the "fit-out" of the laboratories and the ongoing operation of Duffield Hall in order to have the new building operate in an optimal and effective fashion.

The Council remains concerned about the lack of resolution on the ultimate home of the Department of Computer Science. The Council appreciates the bridge building efforts by the Interim Dean regarding the Computer Science issue and supports the vote of the Faculty Senate to house Computer Science within an academic college. It sees synergies from having the Department of Computer Science within the Engineering College and would welcome the Department of Computer Science back into the College. The Council hopes that this issue can be resolved before the new Dean of Engineering arrives in July. Regardless of the status of the organizational issue by next fall, the Council would be interested in a topic at the next meeting on the state of computer science (e.g., hiring success, research funding).

The Council applauds the establishment of the new Biomedical Engineering (BME) Program housed in Engineering but which crosses college boundaries. It applauds the choice of Michael Shuler as the new director of the program. The Council views this new program as a first step which will need to be monitored and nurtured to develop toward a world class program. The Program should be re-evaluated on a regular basis. The Council stressed again the importance of the BME program having its own significant research, teaching labs and classroom space in order to develop to its fullest potential.

Regarding the presentation of the new Life Sciences Initiative at Cornell by Kraig Adler, Vice Provost for Life Sciences and Steve Kresovich, Director of the Biotechnology Center, the Council applauds the University for broadening its scope in this initiative to include significant technological aspects, including engineering. The synergistic efforts of housing the new Biomedical Engineering Program in the new Life Sciences Technology Building could benefit programs across the University. The Council is pleased to see this initiative evolving, but sees a need for continued work to define a clear program for this new building. Part of this lack of focus appears to be due to the breadth of the New Life Sciences Initiative. The Council supports the inclusive nature of the program but recommends efforts to clarify elements beyond a common space that will encourage the desired synergies. Since tools enabled by engineering will be a critical part of the "biological revolution", the Council sees an important and exciting roll for the Engineering College in helping to articulate and implement the plan for this initiative. The Council is very interested in continuing to get updates on the progress of this initiative.

The Council encourages the College's effort at increasing underrepresented minorities and women into engineering and applauds its efforts at building a pipeline connection with Howard University and other under represented minority institutions.

During the discussion of Cornell's Land Grant Mission, there was a vocal discussion about the IP policy at Cornell. It was pointed out that in fast moving engineering fields it may be counter-productive for the university to try to extract value from IP at the outset, since negotiations often take longer than the time for which the IP has value. Dick Aubrecht noted that all data supports the observation that universities seldom make money on IP in such fast moving fields. He noted that in a recent study, less than 1% of all patents in engineering at universities have value. Income from patent royalties at Cornell is less than 3% of total research revenue.

Dave Hodges noted that they have initiated a new IP policy at University of California, Berkeley that has drastically changed corporate interactions for the better. The information on this new policy will be sent to all ECC members present and to the Dean. Because of the importance of IP policy in the health of a major research university, the Council would like to discuss the IP issue at the next meeting. It is suggested that a panel discussion format is most appropriate. The chair of the ECC suggested a teleconference between a subgroup for the ECC to discuss further the IP panel discussion at the fall meeting. The subgroup will consist of Sherri Stuewer (as chair), Dick Aubrecht, Bill Shreve, Justin Rattner and Dave Hodges. The Interim Dean will schedule this teleconference.

Regarding the financial engineering program, the Council would like the program to expand its scope to include issues like energy trading, complex exchanges, and strategies for auctions and bidding processes. ORIE should try to integrate its program with the undergraduate business program in CALS. Armando Olivera and Jay Carter offered to work with ORIE on these issues.

The Council also thanks Kent Fuchs, the new Dean of Engineering for attending the Council meeting before his appointment starts. It would like to work with the new Dean in creating topics for future discussion and would like to have times set aside in future meetings to discuss future agenda topics. In particular, it would like to have a panel discussion next fall, on how ECC members work with other universities. Participants in this session would be: Justin Rattner, Armando Olivera, Bill Shreve, Neil Schilke, Randall Ledford and Tim Costello.

Finally, the Council members felt that the idea of holding several executive sessions during the course of the one and half day council meeting created a very effective method of discussion.

The next meeting of the ECC has not yet been determined. The College will be in touch with the subcommittee discussing IP issues to set up a teleconference. A suggestion was made after the meeting that handouts from presenters, other than the Dean, should be provided on the internet site to reduce paper use and briefcase bulk. If you have concerns about this plan, please respond to Sherri Stuewer.