

Minutes

Electrical and Computer Engineering Department

Annual Fall Meeting and Retreat

Thursday, September 22, 2005

American College, Gregg Conference Center, Bryn Mawr

Attendance

S. Basavaiah, N. Bilgutay, S. Caiazzo, F. Cohen, A. Daryoush, K. Dandekar, B. Eisenstein, A. Fontecchio, G. Friedman, E. Fromm, A. Guez, M. Hensey, P. Herczfeld, B. Hong, L. Hrebien, M. Kam, N. Kandasamy, Y. Kim, T. Kurzweg, A. Meystel, P. Nagvajara, D. Niebur, C. Nwankpa, A. Paolella, M. Parker-Johnson, A. Petropulu, W. Regli, A. Rosen, K. Scoles, H. Sethu, B. Taskin, L. Trachtenberg, O. Tretiak, S. Weber, R. Zhang

Agenda

Breakfast

Department Head's Report, *N. Bilgutay*

ACIN and its Impact upon ECE Strategic Issues, *M. Kam*

Review of Plan 00-05, SWOT Analysis Summary, Mission and Vision, *D. Niebur*,

Discussion moderator, M. Hensey

"Round Robin" Process: Review of Strategic Goals Part 1

Lunch

"Round Robin" Process: Review of Strategic Goals Part 2

Highlights and Headlines of Round Robin Process, *Summaries by P. Herczfeld, A.*

Daryoush, E. Fromm, O. Tretiak

Break

Wrap-up Session: Implementation, Metric Issues, Action Plan, *Discussion leaders, M.*

Hensey

Reception and Dinner

The meeting began at 9:40 a.m.

Department Head's Report, N. Bilgutay

See attached.

Additional notes:

The Department would like all faculty to be research active as a PI or Co-PI.

The PECO Energy professor funds were moved away from ECE in order to create a women and minority scholarship fund in engineering. Nihat has been working to reverse this action, of which he was not informed. This re-allocation of funds goes against the strategic goals of the Department because ECE would like to increase the number of endowed chair professors. This means that we need to heavily recruit for a Colehower Chair this year so that we safeguard those funds from getting re-allocated.

The adjunct and summer teaching budget was cut. Nihat managed to convince Interim Provost Ali Houshmand to return a certain amount of it but ECE lost 68K out of that particular budget category.

The department is doing well in the rankings.

ACIN and its Impact upon ECE Strategic Issues, M. Kam

Dr. Kam reviewed the Applied Communications and Information Networking (ACIN) program operated by Drexel University under a contract of The U.S. Army's Communications - Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center (CERDEC) since 2001. Drs. Moshe Kam and William Regli serve, respectively, as technical director and associate technical director of the ACIN Camden Center, located in Camden NJ.

The focus of the ACIN Camden Center is on the creation and demonstration of innovative telecommunications and information networking technologies; and the demonstration of proofs-of-concept for: secure, reliable, user-centered, wireless communication and networking platforms that leverage these technologies. Within this mission Drexel conducts several large scale projects on wireless communications (PIs: Regli and Kam), modeling and simulation (PI: Kam), mission planning (PI: Weber) and through-the-wall-detection (PI: Friedman). One of the recent highlights of the project was a demonstration of primary platform developed by the project, the ad hoc network SWAT in Ft. Dix, NJ.

Currently 8 projects are supported through ACIN, involving 12 faculty members (ECE, Computer Science, and Mathematics). 43 students are educated in various projects, ranging from freshmen to post doctoral students. In order to be eligible, students have to be US citizens.

Past graduates from ACIN are highly sought by industry, and have been hired in the past by the NSA, the US Army, Lockheed Martin, Telcordia, Motorola and several other corporations. Project partners include the Sarnoff Cooperation, Lockheed Martin, and several other industrial partners.

ACIN projects also serve as seed efforts to attract projects and funding from 3rd parties, most notably as part of the SAPIENT project (PI: Mancoridis and Kam). Several ECE faculty members have received substantial funding through the ACIN program, in a process that often involved competition between several groups in academia, industry and the government. Proposals were reviewed at the Army's CERDEC on a competitive basis.

Drs. Kam and Regli plan to propose the formation of a University Research Center based on the work performed so far in ACIN, and its growth potential.

Several members of the ECE faculty congratulated Dr. Kam for the impressive effort associated with the technical management of ACIN.

Review of Plan 00-05, SWOT Analysis Summary, Mission and Vision, D. Niebur, Discussion moderator, M. Hensey

See attached.

Summary of moderated discussion:

General points

- Things to improve upon in 2006-2010 Strategic Plan:
 - o continuing ownership of action items
 - o adjusted action items and plan to match the changing situation of the Department
- Focus: What the levers are by which we can improve? What's ECE's niche? What should it be?
- Rankings: difficult to manipulate, should we measure ourselves against rankings?
- Reputation: increase focus on our publications, this is how people know us

Who we are/ What sets us apart?

- Match reality to goals: goals should accurately reflect what Department emphasizes i.e. education vs. research.
- Sets us apart
 - o coop (although it's spreading now)
 - o undergraduates are/ will be very involved in research
 - o value added education: by the time students graduate they are very sought after
- What makes Drexel/ECE graduates sought after? Strengthen those things

Vision statement

- Need a vision statement that is strategically enabling
- Suggestions for a new vision statement:
 - o Be the leader in electrical and computer engineering education
 - o Graduate the most sought after students in the nation
 - o Become leaders in interdisciplinary ECE education
 - Keep general, focus on areas of national need instead of specific commitments
- Focus:

- What do we want to accomplish?
- Are rankings important? Do we want to use them as a metric? Many people feel that rankings are not a good metric or goal
- What should our areas of focus be?
- How do we set our goals?
- What will the world look like 5 years from now and how do we, as a department, want to fit into it?

Round Robin Process: Review of Strategic Goals Parts 1+2

To review the full comments from the easels, see Megan.

Highlights and Headlines of Round Robin Process, Group Leaders: P. Herczfeld, M. Kam, A. Daryoush, L. Hrebien, E. Fromm, K. Scoles, D. Niebur, O. Tretiak

See attached.

Wrap-up Session: Implementation, Metric Issues, Action Plan, Discussion leaders, M. Hensey

See attached.