

Engineering Student Technology Committee

Meeting minutes for March 22, 2000 - Engineering B214 Conference Room - 8:00am

Present: Megan Donovan (ECE), Jennifer Flint (ECE), Prof. Garcia (CBE),
Mike Holland (ME), Bala Natarajan (ECE), Lance Parker (CBE),
Mark Ritschard (ENS), Jessica Rupp (ME), Laurent Simon (CBE),
Dan Stiles (CE), Prof. Willson (ME)

Absent: Michelle Heintz (CE), Prof. Labadie (CE), Miranda Larsen (CBE),
Prof. Nassar (ECE), Tarek Salem (CE),
Jeff Sorrentino (ME) (for Torrey Burgess)

- Corrections to previous meeting minutes (3-15-00)

none

- Disbursement of Funds (proposals vs. allocation)

Reports were given by students who solicited feedback from other students.

Lance: CBE students prefer a department allocation

Mike: ME students prefer funds be disbursed centrally

Megan: ECE students prefer funds be disbursed by department

Dan: CE students prefer funds be used on central labs

Mark Ritschard also reported the following percentages of students who pay the tech fee: CE - 29%; ECE - 24%; CBE - 16%; ME - 31%.

Discussion continued based on these reports, focusing on how much, if any, should be distributed to departments. Consensus moved toward departments needing at least a maintenance allocation. After further discussions on percentages, Prof. Willson moved that 50% (\$83,500) of the current funds available be distributed to departments by percentage. The remaining \$83,500 would be available for proposals from any unit in the college. After a second from Prof. Garcia, the motion passed with only Lance Parker

and Mark Ritschard dissenting.

The committee then decided that expenditures would be approved on a proposal only basis, including departmental allocations. Mark will report this to the department heads.

- Proposal form

The draft proposal form was modified to distinguish between a departmental proposal vs. an open proposal, to more clearly distinguish between use of and access to facilities, and to ensure that someone acknowledges responsibility for the project. Mark will make the necessary changes and then disseminate the form both to the committee and to the department heads.

- Fee for 2000-2001

An unofficial proposal was made to the committee to increase the technology fee by \$6.00 and then earmark the resulting \$20,000 as salary for a lab administrator for ALL engineering computing lab facilities on the main campus. ENS would then provide any additional funds needed for the full salary.

Much good discussion followed, focusing on the difference between those who think the current tech fee is too high (compounded by a lack of understanding of how the tech fee is used), and those who see it as a reasonable charge. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

Submitted by
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"He is no fool, who gives what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose."
- James Elliott