Engineering Student Technology Committee

Meeting minutes for November 15, 2000 - Engineering B214 Conference Room - 8:00am

Present: Jennifer Flint (ECE), Mike Holland (ME), Eric Mui (ECE),
Lance Parker (ChemE), Mark Ritschard (ENS), Jason Smith (intra),
David Wieganndt (ECE)

Absent: Torrey Burgess (ME), Prof. Dandy (ChemE), Prof. Fitzhorn (ME),
Alejandro Flores (CE), Dr. Gessler (Assoc. Dean),
David Hodge (ChemE), Prof. Labadie (CE), Prof. Nassar (ECE),
Bethany Schillemman (CE), Marcel Zibognon (CE)

Guest: Rachel Hanson, Chemical Engineering

- Introductions and attendance
  Guest Rachel Hanson attended to learn about issues affecting Chemical
  Engineering.
  The committee welcomed its newest member, Jason Smith, representing
  Environmental Engineering. Jason will also serve as the liaison with the
  Engineering Legislature.

- Corrections to previous meetings minutes (11-8-00)
  "NONE"

- Discuss options of unallocated funds disbursement
  Mui presented an overview of the disbursement task and stated the need to
  determine whether the departments would receive an initial allocation.
  As requested by last year's committee, Ritschard read the section entitled
  "Request Process Critique" from the ESTC minutes of 5-3-00, in which a
  strong preference was stated for departmental disbursements.
  Several pros and cons were stated for departmental disbursements, noting
  that the faculty present at the 11-8-00 meeting, weighed in heavily on the
  need for departmental disbursements. As a point of discussion, Ritschard
  showed an example of how $18,000 (a minimal amount for maintenance needs)
  would be distributed to the departments based on numbers of students in
  each major:

  Chemical Engineering  11.3%  2,109.96
  Civil Engineering    32.05%  5,769.71
  Elec. & Comp. Engineering 24.59%  4,425.31
  Mechanical Engineering 31.64%  5,695.02

  Smith questioned the absence of a disbursement to intra-departmental majors
  and Ritschard stated that it was assumed last year that ENS maintained labs
  were meeting the needs of these students. However, the committee agreed
that intra-departmental majors should receive a disbursement.

Wiegandt then suggested that such a disbursement based on percentage of students in a major didn't make sense for such small amounts. He suggested that an even $5,000 per department would make more sense in terms of meeting minimal maintenance needs. Much discussion ensued as to whether such a small amount even made a difference and whether the amount should be higher. However, the committee felt that a larger central pool would give the whole college more opportunities to submit projects. It was also suggested that, if a larger pool existed, that more strategic projects should be considered.

Smith raised the question of how proposals would be ranked if funds were distributed centrally, suggesting that departments should be asked to rank all proposals from a given department. The ranking will depend on how the funds are distributed, if departments receive a large distribution, proposals will be ranked by departments. If departments receive a small distribution, proposals will be ranked by the committee.

Ritschard then moved that 23K be distributed to departments with 5K each going to ChemE, CE, EC, and ME, and 3K being distributed to intra-departmental majors. Mui seconded the motion and it passed 6-1 with Holland dissenting. He said that he felt that the money should be distributed on a percentage basis and that departments would best be able to determine project needs, rather than the committee managing a central pool.

The committee now has 50K to distribute centrally and Ritschard distributed last year's proposal form for review. Mui asked the committee to bring suggestions for additions and deletions to the next meeting.

Regarding proposals, the committee will adhere to the following timeline: proposals due 2/1/00 and funds disbursed by 3/1/00.

- Committee web page
  Mui reminded the committee that there is an ESTC web page (http://www.engr.colostate.edu/college/committees/estc/) and asked the committee for input on what should be included on the pages. It was decided that the proposal form and committee membership should be on the page and that it should be used to advertise for proposal submissions.

- Committee communication with Engineering Legislature
  Jason Smith will either serve as the liaison to E-leg himself, or find someone who can.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 29.

Submitted by
Mark Ritschard

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