Engineering Student Technology Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting of March 23, 2004
Lockheed Martin Design Studio 7

Present: Bryce Eldridge (ECE), Ryan Fleming (CE), Miranda Grote (intra),
      Klaus Hartinger (ECE), Doug Hopper (ME), Derek Johnson (ChemE),
      Michelle L'Heureux (Atmos), Dave Miller (ChemE), Mark Ritschard (ENS),
      Chris Rozoff (Atmos), Prof. Hiroshi Sakurai (ME), Heidi Shray (ECE),
      Assoc. Dean Tom Siller (Acad. Affairs),

Absent: David Bryant (ME), Tim Hinerman (ME), Shawn Klawitter (ChemE),
      Prof. Kevin Lear (ECE), Liz Lipp (intra), Arun Nair (CE),
      Prof. Ranil Wickramasinghe (ChemE), Tony Zancanella (CE),

-Welcome and Introductions

-Updates
None

-Budget
The committee was shown how much of the budget has been spent YTD by Ritschard and was given a broad overview of the breakdown of the budget. Enrollments in each of the college departments were shown as a percent by major and a percent by department. The amounts for lab management, software, and maintenance were highlighted. It was noted that intra-departmental allocation for lab maintenance was $3,000 and all other departments had $5,000 for that category. Grote motioned that the amount be raised to $5,000 for the intra-departmental to match other departments. Hopper seconded the motion. Discussion ensued and the motion passed by a unanimous vote, allocating $5,000 instead of $3,000 for intra-departmental lab maintenance.

The strategic initiatives currently have an allocation of $11,000. It was suggested previously by Klawitter that the money for strategic initiatives would be better spent if the committee waited until more was accrued before allocating the funds. It was suggested that the tech fee be increased by 3.33% ($5.00 increase), which would generate an additional $17,000 yearly for the budget. Committee members expressed an interest in increasing the tech fee by 5% (the maximum allowable by the state is 5%), which would be a $7.50 increase. A compromise was made and the committee thought that it might be easier to pass a $7.00 increase in the tech fee. Committee members were asked to discuss this increase with their constituents, and be ready to make a decision at next weeks meeting.

The replacement cycle and cost of lab supplies was itemized and reviewed by Ritschard. The object of greatest concern was the changes to be made at the AERC. Several committee members feel that they dont truly have an understanding of what goes on at the AERC and it was suggested that each member talk to knowledgeable students and faculty to gain better understanding. In addition, it was suggested that next weeks meeting take place at the AERC. Committee members agreed to conduct next weeks meeting at the AERC. Ritschard will provide directions.

As a side note, Hopper introduced discussion regarding the usefulness of the Internet Caf, but the discussion was tabled until other primary budget concerns have been completed.

-Next meeting
The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 30, 2003, at 8 AM at the AERC on Vine
Drive. Ritschard will provide directions via email.

Submitted by
Ryan Fleming