Meeting Minutes of the Engineering Student Technology Committee (ESTC)

Meeting: 18 April 2012
5:00 p.m. in Engineering Dean’s Conference Room

In Attendance: Adam Allevato (ME), Professor Thomas Birner (ATS), Tucker Kern (ECE), Professor John Labadie (CEE), Professor Kevin Lear (ECE/SBME), Isaac Medina (ATS), Chair Anthony Navarro (ECE), Mark Ritschard (Assistant Dean for Operations, ex officio), Nick Reidel (ME), Peter Reido (ME), Miriah Schwartz (CBE), Todd Zurlinden (CBE)

Not In Attendance: Nathan Baker (CEE), Jesse Jankowski (CEE), Professor Ketul Popat (ME), Professor Ashok Prasad (CBE), Professor Tom Siller (ADAA, ex officio), R.B. Stuart (CBE), Elizabeth Thompson (ATS), Dalton Young (ECE)

Guest: Angie Addie (ENS)

-Approval of Previous Minutes
Minutes were approved for both February 8th and February 22nd, 2012.

-CEE iGEM Proposal
A resubmission of the CEE iGEM proposal was discussed. The resubmission contained some more detail of the proposed budget. The proposed budget included pay for a graduate/postdoc at $4,800 and laboratory supplies at $5,200. Mark stated that CFT funds cannot pay for general laboratory supplies; they must be supplies to maintain equipment. The committee agreed that the expenses they are planning to make with the funds they are requesting do not line up with what CFT funds can be used for.

A suggestion was made to give them a model by which the proposal could be funded, i.e. equipment that could be purchased and supplies for that equipment. A motion was made to deny the proposal as currently submitted. The motion was seconded and approved.

-Security cameras
Ritschard gave some background on the state of the current security camera system in place in the computer labs/classrooms and policies being enforced at the University level. The committee made the decision to let the security cameras in the labs go out of service and not be replaced.

-2013 Budget
Ritschard presented the current budget and discussed how the committee could come to a decision on how to allocate CFT funds for 2013. A discussion followed, including the potential allocation of funds for Biomedical Engineering. There was a suggestion and discussion of adding money in the 2013 budget toward purchasing equipment for EII that would benefit Biomedical Engineering and other departments versus allocating money specifically for Biomedical Engineering at this time.

Ritschard will mock up some of the suggestions, including: adding 3% to student wages; 6 computer seats to the Biomed lab in EII; 6 additional for other labs in EII; and $150,000 for EII (using $25,000 from the current carry-forward amount).

A question was brought up about the replacement of the current thin clients and Ritschard discussed the strategy ENS has begun implementing to replace the Sun Rays with Wyse thin clients.
-2013 Leadership
Reido and Zurlendin expressed interest in the chair position and will discuss the responsibilities and expectations of the position with Navarro prior to the next meeting.

-Technology Fee
Ritschard brought to the committee’s attention that one of the last items that needs to be decided prior to the end of the semester is the technology fee charge. Navarro made a motion to keep the tech fee at $170 and the motion was seconded and passed.