Meeting minutes of the Engineering Student Technology Committee (ESTC)

Meeting: October 19, 2015
4:30 p.m. in Engineering B214 (Engineering Conference Room)

In attendance: Jordyn Dahlke (ME), Daniel Dauwe (ECE), Kristine Fischenich (SBME), Professor Emily Fischer (ATS), Arun Lakshminarayanan (ME), Peter Marinescu (ATS), Chaz Myers (CE), Professor Peter Nelson (CE), Erik Nielsen (ATS), Aaron Smull (ECE), Kelley Wittmeyer (ENS, ex-officio)

Not in attendance: Elaheh Alizadeh (CBE), Abdullah BaGais (CBE), Zachary Bodmer (CBE), Sean Brustuen (CE), Professor Patrick Fitzhorn (ME), Professor Brian Munsky (CBE), Brad Reichel (CE), Professor Sourajeet Roy (ECE), Professor Tom Siller (ADAA, ex officio)

Guests: Angie Branson (ENS), CJ Keist (ENS), Mark Ritschard (Assistant Dean for Operations)

Approval of meeting minutes (4/21/15)
Minutes from 4/21/15 were approved.

Review of responsibilities
Ritschard reviewed the responsibilities of the ESTC. The committee is responsible for spending and setting the budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Ritschard explained that the defining characteristic of this fund is lab equipment for students. He further clarified what the committee is allowed to spend the funds on and what it is not allowed to spend the funds on and showed the committee where to locate the CFT Manual (http://www.acns.colostate.edu/UCFT/files/cftmanual.pdf).

Review of ESTC website
Ritschard reviewed the ESTC website and all of the information available, including reports on budgets and expenses for past years. Ritschard also reviewed the current year's budget, which was set by the ESTC last year, briefly explaining each category.

UTF vs. CTF
Ritschard reviewed the differences between the University Technology Fee (UTF) and the Charge for Technology (CFT). The CFT is the charge collected by individual colleges and is the fund that the ESTC manages. The UTF is collected by ASCSU and managed by the University Technology Fee Advisory Board (UTFAB).

Review of Instructional Technology position
Ritschard provided a general overview of how the position started, which was by a proposal from Dan Herrick to the ESTC last year. This position will provide support for the learning spaces in the College of Engineering, including all of the computer labs, classrooms, and equipment funded by the ESTC. Keist is the chair for the search committee and he gave an update on the progress the committee has made for the search so far. Ritschard opened an invitation to the ESTC to select a volunteer to serve on the search committee. As per the decision from last year's committee, 75% of the salary will come from the CFT fund.

Virtual Lab/Thin Farm -> Virtual Classroom
Keist discussed the proposed merger of the Virtual Lab and Thin Farm into one service to be renamed the Virtual Classroom. Recent upgrades to the server equipment and server OS that
these services are run from, the elimination of Citrix, and a reduction in the restrictions on software licenses would allow the combining of both resources into one service. The advantages to this would be a reduction in cost, more servers in the server farm to balance the demand of students accessing the service, and reduction of effort in maintaining two separate services. The ESTC originally was very passionate about setting up the Virtual Lab, so ENS felt the need to gain approval from the committee to proceed. If approved by the ESTC, the change would be made over Winter Break. Motion was made, seconded and approved. One abstain.

Review of projects ENS completed over the summer affected by CFT funds
Wittmeyer reviewed ENS projects completed over summer. A large amount of the budget set by the ESTC is spent over the summer on refreshing the technology across the computer labs and on the server side back end equipment. Wittmeyer also gave a brief explanation of the newly expanded EngrCloud remote file storage and sharing service.

Other Business
Lakshminarayanan asked for an update on the Internet Café remodel. Last year’s committee chair, Fischenich, gave an overview of the work done by the committee last year on the Internet Café remodel and the resulting discussions with each department head. In general, the departments were supportive of the remodel, they just did not have any funds when they were approached last year. The committee can readdress the update and approach the departments again this year and/or locate other funding sources.

Next meeting
The next meeting was tentatively set for November 2nd at 4:30 pm.

Adjourned: 5:24 pm