

College of Engineering Teaching Committee Final Report

24 April 2008

Members: Allen Bradley (Chair), Jia Lu, Joseph Reinhardt

Charge 1: *Review nominations and recommend a faculty member for the College of Engineering Teaching Award.*

The committee met and reviewed the two applications for the Collegiate Teaching Award. The committee made its recommendation for the award to the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs.

Charge 2: *Review nominations and recommend nominees from the College of Engineering for the President & Provost Award for Teaching Excellence.*

The committee reviewed the two applications for the tenure-track award, and the one application for the adjunct faculty award. The committee made its recommendations on nominees from the College of Engineering to the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs.

Charge 3: *Evaluate changes in completing the ACE surveys at the end of a semester. Recommend changes to survey dates (e.g., to last day of classes) if appropriate.*

In the past, the Course Goals Assessment (CGA) surveys were given before ACE surveys. For the past two semesters, the order of the two surveys was swapped. In Spring 2007, ACE was given in last week of class (about the same time as usual), and the CGA was given afterwards during the final examination week. In Fall 2007, the ACE was given in the 14th week of classes, right after the Thanksgiving break (earlier than usual), and the CGA was in its traditional time of the last week of classes.

Although there has been a slow but steady drop in ACE completion rates since its implementation in Fall 2003, the ACE completion rates dropped significantly in Spring and Fall 2007. Both were under 50%. Contrary to the idea of “survey fatigue”, these results would seem to indicate that having a CGA survey *first* does improve the completion rate for the ACE.

Charge 4: *Collaborate with the Dean’s office to explore creating a student workshop that students can use for construction projects related to their class work or student organization activities. Develop relevant policies for administration and use of such a workshop.*

The committee has collected some information on what space is provided for student organization activities at other universities. We have also gathered some examples of administrative policies for workshops at other universities. However, most of the available information is for workshops that have a designed lab director, and the facility serves multiple uses (with student activities a secondary activity), so they may not be directly analogous. However, their information on lab safety and “check-out” procedures for using certain equipment (e.g., welding) are relevant.

Charge 5: *Examine and compile current Elective Focus Areas (EFAs) and courses in each department that deal with energy related topics. Recommend possible synergy and collaboration with different departmental EFAs, and suggest new courses that address deficiencies in energy and sustainability.*

There are three established EFAs with an energy or sustainability theme:

- ME: Energy and Environment
- CBE: Energy and Environment
- CEE: Engineering for a Sustainable World

The committee has compiled a listing of engineering courses within these EFAs.

Charge 6: *Recommend specific charges for the 2008-2009 Teaching Committee.*

We recommend the following charges for next year's committee:

- Review nominations and recommend a faculty member for the College of Engineering Teaching Award.
- Review nominations and recommend nominees from the College of Engineering for the President & Provost Award for Teaching Excellence.
- Evaluate the ACE and CGA completion rates and recommend changes to (and if possible, new ideas for) the implementation of the surveys.
- Collaborate with the Dean's office to explore creating a workshop that students can use for projects related to their class work or student organization activities. Develop relevant policies for administration and use of such a workshop.
- Evaluate the need for additional courses and collaborations for energy related EFAs.

Charge 7: *Submit an interim report by January 15, 2008, and final report by April 1, 2008.*

The interim report was submitted in January 2008. This document is the final report.