

# 2006-07 College of Engineering Teaching Committee Final Report

April 20, 2007

## Members

Prof. C. Allan Guymon, Chair, Prof. A. Allen Bradley, Prof. H. S. Udaykumar

## Response to Specific Charges

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

As individuals from both CBE and CEE were nominated, Profs. Guymon and Bradley could not participate. Prof. Udaykumar worked with last year's nominee (Er-Wai Bai) to select the winner who will be announced at the Spring Award Banquet.

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

The awardee from the College will be forwarded for this award.

3. Review the current policy for completing the ACE surveys at the end of a semester. Recommend changes to the end date (e.g., to last day of classes) if appropriate.

The committee met and discussed options for end of semester surveys. The schedule for surveys for Spring Semester (from Carrie Hogarty) is as follows:

Course Goals Assessment (CGA) Surveys: 5/6/07-5/12/07

ACE Faculty Surveys: 4/29/07-5/5/07

ACE TA Surveys: 4/29/07-5/5/07

This represents a change from earlier surveys in which the CGA was given first and the ACE given second.

Based on this schedule the ACE Faculty Surveys would begin 8 days before finals and wrap up the day before finals begin. Some faculty believe such a schedule may induce more negative results from students, as it is a very hectic period with many class tests and assignments due. Additionally, based on student work load, fewer responses may be achieved at the busiest time of the semester. An idea discussed by the committee would be to slightly change timing of the CGA and ACE Faculty Surveys. Most students will have formed their opinions regarding the class instruction earlier in the course. While some exams may be administered over this period, we believe that the student's evaluations could be more objective than in the last two weeks of the semester. On the other hand, students should have a better grasp regarding the course goals and whether they were met by the end of the semester, suggesting that a later course goals assessment

could be more accurate. The TA survey could be administered as is (during finals week) or in conjunction with one of the other surveys.

Recommendation: To enhance student participation and increase objectivity, ACE surveys should be administered at the start of the 13<sup>th</sup> week of the semester for one week. TA surveys should be administered at the same time. To prevent overlap, and allow the students to discern more accurately if course goals have been met, CGA surveys should be administered beginning at the end the 14<sup>th</sup> week of the semester and continued until finals begin.

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 the administration and use of such a workshop.

The committee supports previous efforts to find space to allow student organizations to construct engineered systems to allow participation in national competitions as this is an integral part of their undergraduate education. Space close to the Engineering building is desirable to enhance participation for these projects. Prof. Bradley has discussed potential sites with the Dean's office and other relevant parties. Unfortunately, based on current space utilization and discussions, no consistent/permanent space is available that meets all criteria for specified uses. Prof. Bradley will continue discussions with the Dean's office, and the student organizations to look at new options.

Recommendation: This issue should be tabled and given as a charge for next year's committee.

5. Recommend specific charges for the 2007-08 Teaching Committee.

With Iowa being a current leader in the renewable energy field, student training in energy topics will provide a sound basis for future local employment opportunities. The Teaching Committee should examine current Elective Focus Areas in each department that deal with energy related topics. Possible synergy and collaboration between different department EFAs, and new courses that address current deficiencies in course offerings should be recommended.

The committee should also continue examination of charge 4 from this year's committee.