

College of Engineering Teaching Committee Final Report

11 May 2009

Members: Allen Bradley (chair), Jia Lu, Joseph Reinhart

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

The committee met and reviewed the nominations 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 nominations for the President & Provost Award. The committee made its recommendations on submissions from the College of Engineering to the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs.

Charge 3: *Evaluate the ACE and CGA completion rates and recommend changes to (and if possible, new ideas for) the implementation of the surveys.*

The committee examined the responses for the electronic Assessing the Classroom Environment (eACE) survey and the Course Goals Assessment (CGA) for engineering courses. In particular, we examined trends in their completion rates since Fall 2003, and trends in aggregate scores. Our main findings and conclusions were submitted to the EFC as a separate report.

In summary, the continued decline in eACE and CGA response rates remains a concern. Changing in the timing of the surveys, which has been attempted in the past, is unlikely to alter the situation. On the other hand, the declining response has not appeared to bias the overall scores instructors receive on eACE surveys. Still, with fewer responses, the survey results for an individual instructor will vary much more from semester-to-semester, and the instructor may also receive fewer written comments (for some, the loss of this qualitative feedback is among the most significant outcomes of declining eACE responses).

The committee worked jointly with the Curriculum Committee to formulate a recommendation for ACE surveys. The recommendation calls for in-class surveys, limited to the core set of questions required for administrative purposes; collection of any additional information would be the responsibility of the instructor. The joint recommendation was submitted to the EFC as a separate report.

Charge 4: *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.*

A representative of the committee participated in ongoing meetings, organized by the Dean's office, to establish workspace for education and student-related projects.

Charge 5: *Evaluate the need for additional courses and collaborations for energy related EFAs.*

There are three established EFAs with an energy or sustainability theme. The committee has compiled a listing of engineering courses within these EFAs (see attached), and discussed the need to additional courses and collaboration. The committee proposed organizing a meeting with representatives of CBE, CEE, MIE, and ECE, to discuss energy-related activities in the undergraduate curriculum, and identify course and collaboration needs. The meeting has not yet taken place, but we will work to get the groups together in upcoming weeks.

Charge 6: *Recommend specific charges for the 2009-2010 Teaching Committee.*

We will be recommending that the following charges be included 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.
- Continue to monitor trends in response rates and scores for the ACE surveys.

Charge 7: *Submit an interim report by January 15, 2009, and final report by April 1, 2009.*

This document is our final report.