Summary

Fifteen members of the ECAC met to review the progress of the College and offer comments on the Strategic plan, goals and metrics. The full membership of ECAC is attached and those starred were in attendance.

An overarching goal is for the College to move from a ranking of 46 to 30 over a 5 to 10 year period. A number of major new initiatives were discussed by guest speakers. These provided substance to another goal of 50% growth for undergraduate and graduate students in five years.

These goals necessitate a proportional growth in outstanding faculty recruits, additional funds from research grants and donor contributions and facilities expansion. The ECAC enthusiastically endorsed the strategy but voiced some concerns about priorities, execution, and faculty turbulence as they adjust to a new management and budget process and face an upcoming ABET evaluation.

Feedback on Progress since the December, 2008 Meeting

Clearly there has been great progress over the year in many elements of the plan put forth by Dean Chajes.

Some Highlights are noted:

- Undergraduate growth is 25% (522)
- New research center grant won (Catalysis Center for Energy Innovation) and several others in proposal
- Computer Science is positioned to join Engineering in 2009-2010. ECAC feels this is a strong must happen.
- New undergraduate program and an interdisciplinary graduate program in biomedical engineering
- Establishment of 4 + 1 BS/MS program. ECAC likes this but would be concerned if the normal engineering curriculum was diluted by business courses
- Partnership with Aberdeen Proving Ground for education, research and job fulfillment
- Emphasis on communication and publicity to build brand
- Establishment of new leadership functions and organization consolidation within Engineering to increase clarity and productivity
- Development of a long term space plan with near term emphasis on an Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering building
- Progress in diversity of students and faculty (particularly women)

**Feedback on Engineering Strategic Plan**

The ECAC is very pleased to see the support and high priority Engineering is given in the Path to Prominence as set out by the President. The specific goals and measures of the College should be more explicitly tied to the University’s five initiatives. The ECAC will collaborate with the Dean over the next two months to harden the priorities, analytical measures and competitive benchmarks.

Areas of concern identified for ongoing review were:
- Recruitment of outstanding faculty to keep pace with anticipated student growth and increased research funding required to increase national ranking
- Faculty morale through the change process of management, budget and ABET
- Capital for infrastructure

**Looking Forward**

Much thought has gone into the Strategic plan for the College but it now moves into execution stage. The ECAC generously offered the Dean its expertise to sharpen the focus of goals and measurement, enhance leadership development of students and faculty and assist in development funds. In fact the ECAC had a discussion about becoming true leaders in giving to help set the stage for the College’s constituents. ECAC looks forward to collective and individual communication throughout the year with the Dean to assure solid accomplishments.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Michael Bowman
Chairman
Engineering College Advisory Council