Engineering & Technology Open Forum
Meeting Minutes

10-26-10
Electrical/Mechanical Open Forum
Wentworth Student Government
Hosted by Jon Lindblad
Notes: Kevin Baker

The forum contained three sections:

Professor Driscoll is the electronics and mechanical department head. He will be the Dean of the new college of Engineering starting in January. During the forum, he will give a presentation on new majors, restructuring, and the new college as a whole. Next, he will answer any questions about the upcoming changes. Lastly he will open the floor to any questions at all.

New academic structure:

5 colleges:
Arts and Sciences
Design and Architecture
Management and Construction
Engineering and Technology
Professional and Continuing Education

The college of engineering and technology will be laid out as follows:

Dean

Biomed  Civil  computer  electrical  mechanical

Electro-Mechanical  Engineering (general)

General would be for people who want to study engineering but want to do other things as well, such as taking more science or design courses.

Proposed initiatives:

New degree and professional certification programs
Foster an integrated education environment
Expand outreach initiative to colleges and the community
Develop an anyone/anywhere/anytime attitude towards education – should be able to study wherever and whenever, for example studying abroad
Expand and modernize the colleges infrastructure – want a building for engineering and technology. There are many renovations and additions to come.
Encourage the collaboration and dissemination of scholarly work – not only for faculty but also students who want to get into competitions, present at conferences, etc.
New degree and cert programs:

Bach of science in:

- Biomedical engineering - fall 2011
- Electrical engineering - fall 2011
- Mechanical Engineering - fall 2011
- Civil Engineering - Fall 2012
- Engineering - fall 2012

Master of Science in:

- Engineering management - fall 2012
- Engineering - fall 2013

Post baccalaureate certification program in power systems - fall 2010

Employers are looking for grads with more of a background in the power industry. This certification program will give recent grads a chance to get a certification in that industry.

In the future, there is a possibility for more certification programs like this.

Foster an integrated education environment:

- More push in institute for collaboration, students working across disciplines. Programmers helping engineers, etc.
- Mentor system among students to improve retention – upper classmen helping underclassmen
- Strengthen ties with alumni
- Applied research and entrepreneurial opportunities for students – students should have more chance to do research and get into projects

Expand outreach:

- Strengthen ties with local public and private two year colleges
- Build strong outreach initiatives to the community
- Recruit and retain students for underrepresented groups
- Strengthen ties with Ben Franklin Institute of Technology, they've been around for a long time and we can share ideas and experiences
- Support STEM initiatives
- Get more students who have completed associates degrees from other colleges. They would have a different model than regular full time day students

Initiatives

- Expand and modernize infrastructure – consolidate the different engineering focuses under one roof
Q: Is this all going to change our current curriculum? If I fail systems 1, do I take systems 2 and then later take systems 1?

A: Students will not notice any change in January. Right now if you fail systems 1, you’d take systems 1&2 next semester.

Q: Where did the courses come from for EE and ME programs?

A: The core courses are from the MET and EET, possibly tweaked a little.

Q: Are the engineering programs going to be accredited?

A: All new programs must have one class completed first, then you can go for accreditation. If the program gets accredited very soon after the first graduating class, those students will be grandfathered in. If it takes too long, they won’t get the accreditation credit.

Q: Will the engineering majors share core courses?

A: Yes, for example an electromechanical student will most likely take some core courses with EE or ME students.

Q: Is Electromechanical Engineering being phased out?

A: NO. The program may eventually go from 10 semesters to 9 semesters through tweaks and restructuring. The only problem is that the government might not allow financial aid to be taken for 3 academic semesters.

Q: Will the new engineering majors phase out the engineering technology majors?

A: Right now there’s no discussion of phasing out engineering technology programs. There are two paths to a professional career right now, and WIT gives both paths: engineering and engineering technology. Engineering is more theoretical, design, and mathematical based, while technology is more implementation based. Both would be Bachelor of Science. Wit wants to give more choice to students. Ultimately, marketplace will have to decide in the long run (about 10 years) but right now both disciplines are offered.

One thing about the electromechanical program is that some students are more inclined to either ME or EE, not always both. That’s a reason for new programs, to suit every student.

Some majors might lose students to new majors, but that’s fine because it gives students more of an option.

Q: Will some clubs get more space to work and meet?

A: Yes, all clubs that need space should get space. Most likely not being built right now, but that’s something that should/needs to happen. Also more project space would be nice.

Q/A: In electromechanical engineering, first year students work with 5th year students in a sort of mentor program. First year students lose their support system when they come to college, so if they’re put with a 5th year student it’ll give them someone to talk to for help and support. This also helps the 5th year student by giving them experience. This helps new students to understand the need for core courses such as English. Statement was made that instead of having first year students meet with 5th year students, have them meet with 4th year students so in sophomore year they have that same person to rely on.

Q: What changes are you going to make to get more space for clubs? Right now there really isn’t enough project space.

A: Right now, the new construction includes a new basic industries lab. This will free up space in the project lab.
Q: What are you going to do to make sure students are at the calculus 1 level for freshmen year?
A: Depends a lot where the student comes from high school wise, admissions requirement is at least through pre-calculus. Most high school students they've asked have taken at least pre-calculus or calculus 1. Online summer course could provide an introduction to calculus 1 in things such as imaginary numbers. Depends a lot on the situation though.

Q: What will we see in January, how will that affect us? What will happen to professors when new majors come?
A: Courses will stay the same, nothing will change that we can see. Current students in programs won't notice any difference.

Trying to have the FE exam taken in the fourth year, so results will be in by the time you grad. Right now students need proof that they have at least taken the exam in the form of a stamped ticket, but results are not necessary. Students pay for the FE exam.

Leave comments on the survey at the end of the class. THEY GET READ, LEAVE MEANINGFUL COMMENTS.