

TO: ETCS Assembly

FROM: ETCS Issues Ad-hoc Committee
T. Cooklev, Chair

DATE: February 11, 2014

SUBJ: ETCS issues and leadership

DISPOSITION: To the presiding officer for implementation

WHEREAS, ETCS aspires to be a leader in education and research,

WHEREAS, ETCS requires effective leadership,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the ETCS Assembly ignores all anonymous documents and does not forward them up the administrative ladder.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any course changes and cancellations require the consultation of all affected Department Chairs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ETCS Assembly recommends the Dean and the VCAA implement the restructuring of ETCS Interior Design program and the Department of Engineering as proposed by the concerned faculty and departments with an effective date of July 1, 2014.

MEMORANDUM

To: Engineering, Technology, and Computer Science Assembly of Representatives
From: ETCS Issues Ad-hoc Committee

The ETCS Issues Committee met twice in January of 2014 to discuss the general state, governance, and future direction of ETCS. This is an ad-hoc committee established by the Assembly at its December meeting. The committee was created in response to general concern about budgets, restructuring, enrollment and credit hour declines, and about the overall leadership of ETCS.

Present:

Todor Cooklev (Chair)
Gyorgy Petruska
Paul Lin
Dina Mansour-Cole
Tom Laverghetta
Barry Dupen

1. Enrollment and Courses

ETCS enrollment fluctuates, but we follow national and regional trends.

The committee noted that the Dean is trying to recruit students from Taiwan and China to increase ETCS enrollments.

The Dean cancelled ETCS 106 without the participation, or consent of any ETCS Chairs. We recommend the following:

- In future, the Dean should discuss course cancellations in advance with all affected Chairs before cancelling a course. Affected Chairs include the head of the department that offers the course, and the Chairs of departments whose students enroll in the course.
- Given the high demand for this course, the Department of CEIT should consider offering the course under a new course number, ECET 106, for example.

2. Restructuring

Decisions should be made in consultation with departments that are affected. This has been followed generally.

- The current restructuring procedure is too slow and ad-hoc. We need a formal, transparent procedure for the College. The faculty committees have done their work. However, the Dean has not been able to get the VCAs to act.
- We need more efficient leadership and vision in restructuring; the Dean has not demonstrated clear vision and leadership at restructuring. The Dean sometimes says one thing and does another. This compounds communication problems.

3. Budget

Most of the complaints among the faculty are regarding the budget and the budget process. The Dean created some acute budget problems, such as the one in MCET. (The Dean has helped MCET for the Spring 2014 semester and is also covering the Dept. of Engineering ABET fees).

Some budget numbers are transparent and can be easily found. The overall budget picture, however is not transparent since some recurring expenses are characterized every year as “non-recurring”. The committee makes the observation that the upper administration has not enforced strict budget discipline. This has impacted ETCS. The budget process is also not transparent. Some decisions are unclear. For example, it is unclear how LTL, GTA, and GRA budgets are determined. In many cases LTL budgets are unrealistically too low.

Most - perhaps all - other Purdue-administered universities have a fee for technology and management programs. This fee is not assessed per lab, but is payable yearly by every major. For example, for 2013-14 at Purdue University West Lafayette the yearly fee for technology majors is \$572, for engineering majors- \$1,800, and for management majors - \$1,436. (Some labs and programs - flight for example – have additional fees.) IPFW is the only campus that does not. If there is a budget cut, then such a fee must be instituted to compensate for the budget cut.

- The Dean needs to communicate the budget process better. In particular, what decisions are made at the higher levels (VCAA) and what decisions are made by the Dean?
- The Dean’s explanations are mostly ad-hoc. He tends to provide different explanations on different occasions.
- ETCS must examine introducing a fee for every ETCS major. This fee should be placed directly into the relevant Department account in its entirety.

The committee believes that the primary task of the Dean is to support the academic mission of the College by providing the faculty and staff with the resources they need to do their jobs.