Master of Engineering Committee  
Wednesday, February 10, 2010  
8:00 – 9:00 am, 240 Carpenter Hall

Attendees: Kathryn Caggiano, Chair (ORIE), Graeme Bailey (CS), David Grubb (MSE), Al George (MAE), Mark Turnquist (CEE)

Guests: Yoanna Ferrara, Shelby Clark-Shevalier (CBE)

Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the December 9, 2009 meetings were approved.

Fall 2010 Admissions—around the table

CS has approximately 100 more applicants (25%). There is an increase in the number of US applicants. At this point, the field is still scanning application documents. CS is offering MEng admissions to some rejected PhD applicants—about 200. A concern was expressed that this practice has a “political aspect”, i.e. over time, it may have an effect on Cornell’s image at feeder schools. The field plans to use web chat to improve yield.

The size of CEE’s applicant pool is more comparable to F08. In F09 there was an increase that has not been sustained in F10. Possible explanation—this year, the job market has gotten better, therefore the application numbers are lower than last year. There is a decrease in the number of US applicants and the field will focus efforts on the yield of this population.

MAE has been reviewing PhD applications so far, therefore MEng applications are still to be processed. The field has improved the information about the MEng program on its website and is planning to have information sessions for Cornell students.

MSE does not have any expectations on what the MEng yield will be this year. It will be related to the yield of their MS program.

ORIE’s applicant pool increased with about 20% compared to F09. This is primarily due to an increase in applications from China. US applications are the same. 75% of the applications are for Financial Engineering, although the field would like to have about 50% of the enrolled students in this program and the other 50% in OR. Most of the US applicants and those from Cornell are applying to the OR program. To improve the yield of US applicants, the department individually contacts some of them. The field plans to use web chat to improve overall yield.

Fields are not hosting visitation weekends for MEng students but do accommodate individual visits per applicants’ request. CEE hosted a visitation weekend several years ago but it did not have any effect on yield and was costly, therefore they would not be interested in hosting one this year.

Report on the GFA Meeting January 21, 2010

Starting this summer, Shelby Clark-Shevalier will be supporting the MEC with marketing initiatives. The topics discussed at her meeting with the GFAs and the engineering GSSRs (from the Graduate School) on Jan 21, 2010 were: a) Administrative issues common to all fields; b) the new TOEFL requirements for Singapore applicants.
Action point—the MEC chair will request that the University Relations subcommittee contacts the Graduate School to better understand the rationale for the changed TOEFL requirements and see if this decision could be discussed.

**Fellowships:**
The MEC fellowship nomination deadline of February 19 was approved.

There have been over 520 applications for the Knight Fellowship. The deadline for the fields to identify top applicants and those unlikely to be admitted was moved to February 19. Earlier responses will be appreciated.

**Field programs for MEng professional development**
Most fields do not have formalized professional development or communication programs for their MEng students. Those students who work on project teams gain experience on professional presentation and problem solving through their work on the team. Yoanna mentioned that CERC, the Cornell Engineering Research Conference, offers training for the oral presenters through workshops by the engineering communications program. It was pointed out, however, that while this is helpful, CERC does not scale to the needs of the MEng student body as a whole.