Attendees: Kathryn Caggiano, Chair (ORIE), Huseyin Topaloglu (SYS), David Grubb (MSE), David Lipson (BME), Graeme Bailey (CS), Mark Turnquist (CEE), Clif Pollock (ECE), Larry Cathles (EAS), Al George (MAE), William Olbricht (CBE), James Bartsch (BEE)

Guests: Cathy Dove, Yoanna Ferrara, Jeff Newman, Marcia Sawyer

Meeting Minutes
Minutes from the May 13, 2009 meeting were approved.

Cornell Engineering Alumni Association (CEAA)
Kathryn Caggiano, who is on CEAA Board, led discussion about increasing involvement of alumni in MEng projects and as mentors to MEng students.

Goal with projects is to open lines of communication—not every idea will lead to a project. Concern was expressed over raising expectations. BME will share example of a good proposal from an alum’s company. Kathryn asked for project ideas from MEC and will ask alumni for specific expertise or ways they can help MEng projects.

Mentoring systems at Cornell exist in CALS and HumEc, and a program is run by Cornell Entrepreneurial Network (CEN). ORIE is gathering information for a departmental program. Cornell Career-Net connects alumni and students by areas of interest at the university level. The MEC did not find there was any great need for a mentoring system at the College level in light of the existing resources and the work and effort that would be involved for the College to establish and run it.

Petitions
The electronic petition process takes up too much faculty time, and it is not an effective way to evaluate cases. A yes or no response is not nuanced enough. Responsibility is at the field level for MEC representatives to clearly articulate why an exception should be made. The true measure of success of a petition is to look back and see if the student graduated and what his/her GPA was. Nevertheless, the MEC rules require petitions in certain cases. After a discussion of various options, the MEC decided to form an Academic Subcommittee of no less than three members who will be authorized to review and decide petitions from the fields on behalf of the entire MEC.

Subcommittees
MEC representatives agreed to serve on subcommittees as follow:

Finance: Graeme Bailey, David Lipson, Kathryn Caggiano

Marketing and Outreach: David Grubb, Clif Pollock, Jim Bartsch, John Belina (emeritus)

Projects: Al George, David Muller, Bill Olbricht, Huseyin Topaloglu

University Relations: Al George, Mark Turnquist, Larry Cathles

Academic: Kathryn Caggiano with Mark Turnquist and David Grubb joining after the meeting
Web Chat Software  
The College has a license to AdobeConnect, which was piloted last Spring and demoed to the MEC. Another demo and info sessions will be scheduled. The web chats were very useful in communicating with 30-45 students in a session. The Research and Grad Studies Office offered to provide lists of students who expressed interest in specific MEng fields so they could be invited to chat sessions.

Workshop on Engineering and Business Ethics – October 30  
Ron Kline described the design of the workshop and the subject of its case study, the Morales incident. The MEC expressed their continued interest and support. The workshop will promote professionalism and expose engineering students to common, difficult ethical issues in the workplace. MEng students will be invited by email to apply for one of the 40 seats in the workshop by October 1. They will be selected by Ron Kline and Park Doing.

Career Services for MEng  
Despite the fact that Engineering Career Services Office is extremely short-staffed, they hired Karin Ash part-time to serve the MEng population exclusively. Karin, former Director of Cornell Career Services and the Career Services Office at the Johnson School, is meeting with MEng students on resumes, counseling them and organizing sessions on interviewing skills and job search strategies. Mark Savage, Director of Engineering Career Services, reminded the MEC that Cornell Job Fair was in one week, so combined with the pressures of just arriving on campus and MEng being a one-year program this is a very intense time for the MEng students.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15.