Master of Engineering Committee  
Wednesday, April 14, 2010  
8:00 – 9:00 am, 240 Carpenter Hall

Attendees: Kathryn Caggiano, Chair (ORIE), Graeme Bailey (CS), Jim Bartsch (BEE), Larry Cathles (EAS), David Grubb (MSE), Al George (MAE), Bruce Kusse (AEP), David Lipson (BME), Bill Olbricht (CBE), Clif Pollock (ECE), Peter Jackson (SYS),

Guests: Yoanna Ferrara, Jeff Newman, Marcia Sawyer

Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the March 10, 2010 meeting were approved.

Admissions Update – around the table

ORIE – Adobe Web Chat session went really well; slower responses overall; 48 accepts, want 2X
CHEME – seeing increased competition from other schools with partial tuition offers (Fla, Penn); otherwise about same # of applicants as 2008 (which was 2X 2007)
BME – Adobe Web Chat session went really well: ½ accepted offers the next day!; 2/3 of admitted applicants are waiting to hear from PhD programs; tough environment for jobs continues
MSE – acceptances about the same as 2009; more Asians in the pool
MAE – apps climbed to 124; 92 admitted; 4-5 PhDs denied admission added to MEng pool; target 60-70
AEP – admitted 11; accepted 5; PhDs denied admission chose MS instead of MEng
BEE – 13-14 offers out; funding issues
ECE – 50 acceptances; basically same as 2009
CS – slower responses, otherwise similar to 2009; funding issues; fewer TAships
EAS – small program, 2 or 3; strong interest in new MS

Charge for Marketing Subcommittee
The Marketing Subcommittee was charged to meet with Yoanna and deliver at the May meeting 2-3 bullet points on what the College can do better next Fall for MEng marketing. One idea floated was engaging an MBA Park Fellow to help out.

Request for Dedicated Additional Resource in Engineering Career Services for MEng in 2010-11

The job market for MEng graduates remains extremely challenging and it was noted that the support last Fall of an experienced person dedicated to MEng career counseling was essential to the successful service of MEng students. It was proposed that the Chair compose a letter on behalf of the MEC to the Associate Dean for Administration and the Interim Dean requesting a dedicated resource in Engineering Career Services for MEng in 2010-11. The MEC discussion which followed brought out that this is a critical admissions issue and asked if departments would consider contributing to the cost of the resource. To be continued at the May meeting…

Fellowships:

The MEC raised questions about the changes made in 2009-10. Is $20,000 substantial enough to sway applicants? What is the impact of other factors, such as students waiting to hear from PhD programs and competitors offering funding? To be continued …
Updates:

Cornell Engineering Research Conference - Jeff Newman announced the MEng winners for best posters and thanked the MEC members who supported students who participated in CERC. In response to questions about the date for CERC being in mid March, Jeff and Yoanna explained; a Fall event would be ideal for corporations recruiting MEng, but their projects are not ready; having it as early as possible in the Spring was the best compromise.

Jeff announced that this was his last MEC meeting. He is leaving Cornell for a position at Vanderbilt University.