Agenda, November 9, 2001
CCGB Meeting

1. Approval of Minutes of 11/2/01 Meeting
2. Undergraduate Announcements
3. Ethics in the Engineering Curriculum, and search for Bovay Chair Engineering Ethics professor

CCGB Minutes
November 2, 2001


Other: D. Dalthorp, P. Kintner, C. Pakkala

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of October 26, 2001 were approved with minor modifications.

Undergraduate Announcements: D. Maloney Hahn (Advising) mentioned that his office is asking for a second round of early intervention information for those students who are not doing well in math after taking the second prelim. L. Lion (CEE) stated that there is a problem with some of the ENGRI classes conflicting with the CS 211 classes, and he wondered if it would be possible to switch CS 211 to another time slot. C. Van Loan (CS) responded that it would be very difficult to move CS 211 to another time slot because it is very large (with approx. 300 students in the spring semester), and finding a large enough lecture hall at another time would be impossible. He suggested that someone be appointed as coordinator of the ENGRI classes so that conflicts such as this don’t occur. F. Gouldin (M&AE) suggested that 2 professors teach the class at 2 different times. L. Lion agreed with this suggestion and said that multiple offerings of CS 211 would reduce class size and space requirements. C. Van Loan replied that multiple offerings would increase their workload tremendously and that it would be more logical to move some ENGRI’s to the 11:00 time slot. S. Wicker (ECE) suggested that departments should work on resolving this problem in the near future. C. Van Loan stated that the Assoc. Dean should handle this problem. T. Jordan (Assoc. Dean) agreed to work on resolving the scheduling conflict.

Status of Communications Requirement: D. Cox (Assist. Dean) examined pre-enrollment figures for the Spring 2002 semester and discovered that, of 295 students who are registered for communications classes, 200 of them are seniors. There are currently 53 available slots in ENGRC 350, of which 22 slots would likely be filled if the Comm. 260 class were not offered. Many students have enrolled in the BEE 489 course to fulfill the communications requirement. P. Beebe (Eng. Comm.) cautioned that M. Timmons (BEE) might reduce enrollment in BEE 489 because it is currently very large. J. Bartsch (BEE) stated that, although enrollment in that course is currently not capped, the number of students who enroll in it keeps rising, with 95 students currently pre-enrolled in it. T. Jordan encouraged BEE to direct students to the available slots in ENGRC 350 rather than overburden BEE 489.
Paul Kintner on Illinois ABET Visit: P. Kintner (ECE) spoke about his visit to the University of Illinois to participate in an ABET review. Among his observations about the U of Illinois program were that, 1) He was impressed with the efficiency and equipment of the undergraduate laboratories. 2) He remarked on how well the 8:00 a.m. classes functioned, with students lively and eager to participate. 3) There are course directors who are responsible for the curriculums and TA training, and these directors change every 4-5 years. This type of arrangement apparently builds a mentoring and community environment, which is very effective for both the students and the teaching staff. 4) A group of students were interviewed regarding teaching presentations, and they emphasized their dislike of PowerPoint because it encourages faculty to proceed too quickly through their course material.

On the theme of the review process and results, he offered the following summary: Two-thirds of the ABET evaluators share our views on EC2000, with no clear division between those people in industry and those in education. There were 12 departments evaluated at the University of Illinois, and the ABET evaluators examined the A-K outcomes, which the Univ. of Illinois faculty had mapped to courses. Of the 12 departments that were evaluated, 6 had deficiencies (require re-review in 2 years) or weaknesses (require negotiation), 2 totally passed, and the remainder had minor problems (require re-review in 6 years). The most common source of problems was in the Culminating Design experience. The Univ. of Illinois offers a course in ethics and professionalism, but only about 100 students per year enroll in that course. Ethics is also incorporated into the introductory engineering courses and into senior design courses. P. Kintner suggested that the best next step for the CCGB would be to put their objectives in front of the Dean’s Council next week so that they can be reviewed.

S. Wicker (ECE) asked how many CCGB members had taken the ABET objectives back to their departments for tweaking and was told that 4 of them had. S. Wicker said that he would invite the Dean to speak to the CCGB and to discuss the College’s need for accreditation.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 a.m.