Agenda, April 5, 2002
CCGB Meeting

1. Approval of Minutes of 3/29/02 Meeting
2. Undergraduate Announcements
3. Brief report by Engineering Communications Program subcommittee (John Belina)
4. Brief report on progress toward a university-wide “diversity in the US” requirement

CCGB Minutes
March 29, 2002


Ex-Officio: P. Beebe, D. Maloney Hahn, K. M. Smith, T. Thompson

Other: C. Pakkala

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of March 15, 2002, were approved with a minor revision.

Undergraduate Announcements: T. Jordan (Assoc. Dean) stated that the Freshman Book Project Committee has chosen Frankenstein due to its science and technology issues in a social context. They are looking for some engineering faculty and upper-class students to participate in the project, and those people with biomedical interests might be particularly interested in doing so. M. Duncan (ChemE) said that he found the choice of Frankenstein offensive, due to the misguided science involved and the “mad scientist” overtones. S. Wicker (ECE) mentioned that he feels the book is less science-oriented and more about someone (the monster) being different and not fitting into society.

T. Jordan stated that the Bovay Ethics search has been underway, with new advertisements appearing in periodicals. The Search Committee would like to bring some people to Cornell to interview for this position prior to the end of the semester.

T. Jordan said that she will meet with the people on the Diversity in the Curriculum Committee next week. This committee includes people from all of the colleges at the university, and their objective is to find ways to incorporate diversity in the Cornell curriculum. F. Gouldin (M&AE) stated that he feels diversity in the curriculum is a College issue and that the CCGB should be responsible for it rather than individual departments. T. Jordan replied that the CCGB should consider it, likely after the university-wide meeting.

T. Jordan spoke about an opportunity for major NSF support of undergraduate curriculum innovation in engineering. This program provides planning grants to assist departmental and larger units in: Developing comprehensive plans to reformulate, streamline and update engineering and engineering technology degree programs; Developing new curriculum for emerging engineering disciplines; and Meeting the emerging workforce and educational needs of U.S. industry. She asked that the CCGB members encourage faculty members in their department to consider whether their unit would like to apply for the one-year grant, particularly those in BEE and CEE. Only one proposal from Cornell may be submitted, so we must coordinate efforts if more than one unit is interested in the program. S. Wicker (ECE) added that he was chatting with some NSF folks recently, and they told him that applications for this grant are traditionally quite sparse, so Cornell would have a good chance of obtaining a grant. T. Jordan also mentioned that Cornell has been invited to participate in the NSF-funded new faculty training program, and she agreed to circulate the information about the program via e-mail.

Brief Reports by Chairs of Subcommittees (Student Experience, Liberal Studies, Math and Sciences, and Engineering Communications): S. Wicker (ECE) asked for feedback from the CCGB Subcommittees. J.
Bartsch (BEE) stated that the Student Experience Committee has D. Maloney Hahn on it, 3 great students, and 3 faculty members. His committee will meet again in a week’s time with Jery Stedinger to discuss Engineering 150.

F. Gouldin (M&AE) said that the Liberal Studies Committee consists of 3 faculty members, a few students and P. Beebe. They are looking at the liberal studies content in relation to ABET, and trying to decide the best method of assisting students in deciding what liberal studies courses they should take. R. Kay (EAS) stated that the ARTS College will meet in a month to vote on whether their liberal studies categories should be changed. J. Bartsch added that CALS is also trying to re-sort their categories with a focus on flexibility, but it seems unlikely that the categories will change much. F. Gouldin said that The Engineering Undergraduate Handbook lists allowed and non-allowed courses and asked where the lists came from. D. Maloney Hahn (Advising) replied that he would do some historical research about the origins of the lists.

J. Bisogni (CEE) stated that the Math/Science Subcommittee is comprised of him, T. Shapiro, J. Jenkins, R. Kay and 2 students. They will meet within 2 weeks.

S. Wicker said that he has invited J. Belina (ECE) to attend a future CCGB meeting to talk about Engineering Communications. P. Beebe (Eng. Comm.) said that Engineering Communications is looking at ways for students to meet the communications requirement, and they will survey departments about what communications skills they believe their students should have. She will have more information on this topic next week.

**Appropriateness of the Traditional Math Curriculum:** T. Healey (T&AM) said that CCGB members need to remember that the engineering math curriculum is different at Cornell than at other places; what may be offered as five semesters of math elsewhere are condensed into four semesters. C. Van Loan (CS) added that the students could use more choices and that different fields might require different courses. F. Gouldin stated that the math offerings were revised a short time ago, and he doesn’t want math issues to detract from the focus on ABET. He suggested that math be focused on in the context of feedback loops later. J. Bartsch (BEE) said that he would like the math in BEE to mesh with that in Engineering. T. Jordan (Assoc. Dean) stated that the upper-class students express a lack of understanding of how their math courses relate to the engineering courses at junior and senior levels. T. Healey suggested that the Engineering College might use a minimum math requirement and let the fields decide what additional math courses would be required. D. Maloney Hahn (Advising) advised that the CCGB members keep in mind that a trend toward more field-specification of the four required math courses will reduce a student’s flexibility to choose among the various majors. He added that a survey of what topics are important to particular fields would be useful.

**How CCGB Should Prepare for the New Dean:** T. Jordan (Assoc. Dean) suggested that the new dean may want a mission statement, college-wide objectives and strategic plan from the CCGB. T. Healey (T&AM) mentioned that he spoke with the new dean about ABET, and the new dean stated that his department at Illinois had relied on handling a professional to handle ABET. F. Gouldin (M&AE) stated that his department has their objectives and an extensive senior questionnaire in place now, and he suggested that other departments have their objectives and feedback loops in place before a professional comes to handle ABET. S. Wicker (ECE) added that a professional could take what has already been done by the departments and package it. He asked if the CCGB should be presented to the new dean as a focal point for issues and whether it should be suggested that engineering faculty meetings be resumed. C. Van Loan (CS) suggested that the CCGB continue to handle issues, but he suggested that, rather than handle parts of issues each year, the CCGB tackle one big issue each year and fully resolve it. D. Maloney Hahn (Advising) stated that the new dean will want to know where the CCGB stands in the college and what policies are in place. F. Gouldin suggested that the CCGB create an abstract at the end of each year that lists its accomplishments. C. Van Loan mentioned that perhaps the new dean could attend a CCGB meeting when he is next in Ithaca.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.