Agenda, April 12, 2002
CCGB Meeting

1. Approval of Minutes of 4/5/02 Meeting
2. Undergraduate Announcements
3. Internet Discussion with Vice President Polley McClure

CCGB Minutes
April 5, 2002


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

Other: J. Belina, C. Pakkala, J. Powell

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of March 29, 2002, were approved with a minor revision.

Undergraduate Announcements: D. Maloney Hahn (Advising) mentioned that the advising algorithms are due. B. East (Admissions) stated that there were 5,360 applications for admission this year, which represents a 6% increase over last year. Of the acceptances, 32% are women, 10% underrepresented students, and 15% are international students. Of the students, 96% are at the top 10% of their high school class and there is an overall increase in the quality of the students.

T. Jordan asked for a volunteer for a faculty softball game that will be held after the fall student experience reading event. She also mentioned that the ASEE Engineering Dean’s Council has an award available for those people who promote engineering education through the media. She stated that Kent Fuchs will be at the Engineering College Council Meeting on 4/10/02, but he won’t stay in town long enough to attend the CCGB Meeting on 4/12/02.

B. East mentioned that Cornell Hosting will be held from 4/11/02-4/25/02, and she requested that the engineering faculty and staff be welcoming and helpful to the visiting families. She will give everyone a schedule of events.

J. Bartsch (BEE) said that attendance at the BEE field session was low this year; R. Kay (EAS) said that attendance at the EAS field session was low also. B. Kusse (A&EP) suggested that the attendance was poor because the announcements for the sessions were in the Sundial and students don’t typically read the Sundial.

J. Belina (ECE) stated his concern that, with the cost of internet connections on campus dorms increasing, students won’t get the service next year. R. Kay said that the internet is used as a teaching tool (i.e. web-based courses), so putting a high price on internet service for the students is unacceptable. He said that CIT is not thinking about the educational needs of the students, so the faculty need to defend their educational policies and the rights of the students. M. Duncan (ChemE) added that everything costs a lot at Cornell, particularly parking, phone lines, etc. S. Wicker (ECE) stated that he would invite a CIT representative to the next CCGB meeting to present their issues.

Brief Report by Engineering Communications Program Subcommittee (J. Belina): J. Belina (ECE) announced that his group is discussing the technical writing requirement and considering new opportunities to satisfy it while focusing on the ABET A-K criteria. The committee consists of 5 faculty members and 3 staff members. They are looking at alumni surveys and have discovered that the most successful people have good communications skills. They also are looking at trends of what students are doing and where they’re going after graduation. They want people to think of the bigger picture and want to inspire faculty and teaching staff in the fields to help students develop good communications skills. There is a lot of information available in the Engineering Communications Program for people to utilize. In order to assess their progress thus far and
prioritize their future goals, the subcommittee has drafted a list of questions that they will send to the fields. They are hoping that the faculty and teaching staff will give them suggestions of ways to improve the writing requirement. P. Beebe (Eng. Comm.) stated that they know time will be required for answering the questions, and they hope that the field representatives will discuss the questions with their faculty such that the answers are representative of the department. J. Belina said that their major goal is to stimulate discussion and make people think about where the college is headed with technical communications skills. J. Powell (Eng. Library) suggested that research skills be addressed also in the questionnaire. T. Shapiro (LIFE) asked that transforming peer assessment program categories be addressed, as well as computer-mediated competencies and interpersonal skills. J. Belina said that ethical, global and societal issues with relation to technical communications are also addressed. P. Beebe stated that their group is interested in knowing where ethics issues and global/societal impacts are discussed in courses taught in the college because it might be helpful to exchange information about how that is done.

**Brief Report on Progress Toward a University-wide “Diversity in the US” Requirement:** T. Jordan (Assoc. Dean) said that the University President and Provost met with students in an attempt to improve the campus climate. Bob Harris was then chosen to head a group to look at diversity in the curriculum. The Associate Deans in the colleges were asked to examine their courses for diversity and look for opportunities to add diversity to courses. Currently, engineering communications courses and some liberal studies courses include diversity. The Diversity in the Curriculum Committee includes undergraduate students, graduate students, minority faculty members and staff. It is Jordan’s perception that a gulf currently exists between the faculty mindset and the students’ desired classroom experiences. Many A&S and Human Ecology courses already contain information about the diversity of the U.S. population. Many students have the perception that diversity is included in courses but not actually discussed. They want dialogue about the root causes and consequences of the historical and demographic facts. R. Kay (EAS) voiced his opinion that this issue should be dealt with on a college-by-college basis rather than university-wide. He is on the Educational Policy Senate, and believes it should be handled there. F. Gouldin (M&AE) stated that he feels the university created a committee in response to student concerns; essentially the same way it addresses many issues that the students bring to their attention. S. Wicker (ECE) said that the university has a good response in handling student protests by setting up high-profile committees.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.