CCGB Meeting Agenda, October 9, 2009

1. Approval of minutes
2. Undergraduate announcements
3. Honors program revisions in EP, CS and ISST (Gries)
4. Thermo in Physics 2213 (Pollack)
5. Report on class sizes and managing courses (Gries)
6. 2008-2009 Committee Reports (from committees ready to report)

CCGB Minutes, September 4, 2009

Ex-Officio: K. Dimiduk, B. East, L. Schneider, F. Shumway, M. Spencer
Other: B. Howland, C. Pakkala, N. Peterson

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the 5/15/09 CCGB Meeting were approved as written.

Undergraduate Announcements: M. Spencer said that there are 728 first-year students in Engineering; the goal was 735. This is the most diverse class we have had at both the university and the Engineering College in a long time. It is an amazing and interesting class.

F. Shumway announced that we got through orientation successfully. Freshmen enrolled themselves during the summer with instructions from the Advising staff. The overall process went well, but some tweaking will be done. Curricular questions are more refined this year than in the past. W. Philpot stated that students seem much better informed about courses this year.

F. Shumway said that CHEM 2090 is now sorted out. B. East said that the Chemistry Dept. had to add another lab section. F. Shumway said that both students and parents were unhappy about the CHEM situation. Students completed an early advising profile in May; those pre-meds and ChemE majors had priority.

L. Pollack said that it would be ideal if Chemistry had evening classes. She has suggestions for next year. She also said that Physics 112 taken without Math 191 is a problem. The people in Physics don’t enforce the strict pre-requisite structure and are happy to have students take physics before the math. They are telling physics students to take math and physics together. B. East said that we need to look at physics, chemistry, and math. F. Shumway said that the people in Chemistry with whom she has worked seem open to discussion and want to see how to refine the enrollment process for next year. B. East said that if an evening lab would help, we can propose that. L. Pollack said that 5 of her students had a problem with a chemistry and math conflict. It is a very complicated situation and an extra source of stress. Some chemistry classes block out entire mornings. F. Shumway said that students were told about which lab they were going to have in chemistry and they worked around it.

K. Dimiduk stated that the Teaching Center received funding for teaching grants, which faculty can apply for. They can use the grants to pay an undergrad assistant, purchase supplies, etc.

Committee Assignments: D. Gries said that he made this list of assignments last May and that maybe some names should change.

VideoNote Announcement: D. Gries stated that VideoNote is a company formed by 2 of our former students. Last spring 10 courses took place in the study of how effective VideoNote is. K. Dimiduk and J. Dimiduk wrote a report on the study. Laura Brown and D. Gries met and sent a note to K. Fuchs, which said that they think VideoNote should continue to be utilized. K. Fuchs said he would pay half ($2500) for each course that wants to use VideoNote in the fall. Twenty courses is the limit. If someone
wants to use VideoNote, their department needs to come up with a proposal. C. Ober will pay $2500 per course with some rationale as to why a course needs it (i.e. innovation, course made easier, etc.).

B. East said that some folks want to use VideoNote one semester and then use it to teach the course the next semester with 1 discussion section per week. This is a view to save money. C. Ober will put up the money if it helps with reducing faculty and saving the college money. A. Ruina asked if there is any benefit to student sitting in a room and watching video. He doesn’t see any harm to it. L. Pollack said that it seems one could get a series of DVDs and get a 4 year education. She is not a fan of it. D. Gries said that Engineering will save lots of money if we reduce math sections. A. Ruina taught Math 294 using VideoNote, and students in other lectures watched his class more than his own students did. If students enter a course late, they can catch up using VideoNote. If they are sick or otherwise legitimately miss lecture, they can catch up. R. Bland said that there is an outstanding teacher in ORIE and attendance plummeted when he began using VideoNote. He was very upset. Faculty/student interaction is critical, and we don’t have that with VideoNote.

D. Gries said that K. Dimiduk did a survey to see how students performed. The survey found that students in the B-A range who watched VideoNote for 20 hours or more over-performed. VideoNote helped good students but not the worse students. R. Bland said that students who are engaged will benefit from VideoNote; those who don’t will suffer. B. East suggested that, with the H1N1 pandemic, this might be a good semester to think about VideoNote.

**List of Items for the CCGB to Pursue:** W. Philpot said that committee reports should be brought to the CCGB this year. D. Gries said that the reports should include what each committee has been done so far and what each committee should be doing this semester.

W. Philpot said that he will be bringing a motion to the CCGB regarding adding Engineering Communications as a separate liberal studies category.

A. Zehnder said that we shouldn’t pursue a sustainability requirement. We have enough requirements already. D. Gries stated that there are enough courses around campus that deal with sustainability. C. Cohen said that the students could take a sustainability course as an elective. R. Bland suggested that maybe we could infuse something along those lines with the 1050 tutorial. A. Ruina said that we could talk about ways of incorporating moral, ethical, and societal issues into the curriculum. L. Pollack said that students interested in this and they should have advice on how it fits into the existing curriculum. F. Shumway said that if it could fit into the liberal studies requirement, that would be attractive to students. Maybe it could be fit into the moral reasoning category. B. East commented that this would further dilute the liberal studies requirement. L. Pollack said that the students were going to come back with a list of courses and we could see if any fit into any of the liberal studies categories. W. Philpot agreed to check out the status of this and let the students bring the list of courses to the CCGB if they want.

W. Philpot said that in 2005 a student experience survey was done. We need to decide if another survey should be done. B. East said that the Student Experience Committee should meet about this. D. Gries said that a committee should look at 1050 to see if it is doing what it should do. A. Ruina said that he is willing to look at it.

D. Gries said that we need to review post-course assessments. Other committees will need to look at them. Based on them we will need to see if curricular changes should be made. We may ask people at the CCGB to go after them.

D. Gries talked about the need for 3 majors to revise the description of their honors program (EP, CS, and ISST) to comply with the rules. He doesn’t think the CCGB ever approved the ISST honors program. We should look at their revision and approve it. The CCGB is responsible for the overall curriculum.
W. Philpot asked if there are any other items for the CCGB to address. A. Ruina said that the math issue will likely come up. There will likely be big decisions about how math is taught. A. Zehnder added that there will be an issue with fallout from reduced sections.

R. Bland said that task forces have compiled information on course sizes and distributions. It would be helpful to have that. D. Gries said that the information was distributed to Directors and Chairs. B. East said that data exists for the last two years and she would be happy to share it. D. Gries said that 3 subcommittees on the curriculum are meeting on Monday to discuss how to talk about merging in whatever areas they can do. He will report back about this.

R. Bland said that issues with course size were an issue prior to the budget issues and will only get worse. We need to look at the implications of that. B. East said that the assumption is that faculty will work together to figure out how to combine courses. R. Bland said that the data shows parents and children of courses. He is teaching 1 lecture with 220 students, but it appears in the data as 2 separate courses. B. East said that people can send different data to her and she would be happy to distribute it. Only the Directors and Chairs have seen the data.

F. Shumway said that the Independent Major was discussed toward the end of last semester. The issue is that it is currently used primarily as a safety net for students in academic difficulty or those unable to affiliate with a department. It is currently not being used the way it was intended, i.e. as an unusual career path for students. This is a critical issue for sophomores. Maybe we should talk about the possibility of two paths. R. Bland said that the Independent Major is being used as a safety net AND for circumventing affiliation requirements. Students who want a multidisciplinary program are being shortchanged by being in a pool with safety net students. F. Shumway suggested that we better define the program to make it less confusing for everyone. D. Gries stated that we see the problem students in the Independent Major. There are 5-6 students pending who applied to the program late.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.