

University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering

EXCOM –Minutes 02/05/2015

1. College Meeting Friday – Rama Venkat

- Dean Venkat encourages all chairs and faculty to attend the College Meeting scheduled on Friday, 2/6/15.
- President Len Jessup, Provost John White and Vice President for Research Tom Piechota have been invited to presentations and answer faculty questions at the meeting.

2. RPC Discussion – Rama Venkat, Georg Mauer, all members

- Dean Venkat recommended that all Department Chairs and Program Director get access to Decision Support Data.
- Discussion on college FTE and RPC strategies.
- Dean Venkat recommended supplemental instruction hiring tutors using differential fees funds. Tutors must go to class and work with the instructor/professor. Tutor hours must be extended to weekends, especially Sunday.
- Engineering is working with Math and Academic Success Center to implement Math 126-127 as a hybrid course (online and classroom discussion). Placement test will be changed to a more scientific and adaptive placement test. Students will receive a letter requesting to take the test.

3. Tier 1 Discussion – Rama Venkat

- Tier 1 executive and initiative committees are working on the university path to Tier 1.
- Strategic plan to Tier 1 will be presented by the end of Spring semester.
- New hiring plan will focus on the strategic areas to Tier 1 and economic diversification such as: health care and medical services, unmanned aerial vehicles, defense, energy, information technology, gaming, hospitality, security technologies, climate, green technology and others.
- Recommendations to work in collaboration with other colleges to increase the number of PhD.

4. VSIP – Rama Venkat

- Tenured Faculty Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (TFVSIP) is offered to eligible faculty members.
- Deadline to apply March 2, 2015.
- The university anticipates approving approximately 20 applications.
- Dean Venkat recommended Chairs to discuss the TFVSIP with eligible faculty and submit application to the Dean.

5. Report on Current Searches

- STEM Admission Counselor: Dr. Mauer informed that three candidates have been invited for on campus interview during the next ten days. One of the candidates has STEM experience.
- Career Service and Internship: search committee has scheduled candidates' telephone interviews for tomorrow Friday, 2/6.
- Interventional Advising Coordinator: Search committee has submitted recommendation to hire Shae Deschutter and is waiting for EEO AA approval.
- Academic Faculty searches: CS – Big Data, Dr. Gewali has submitted the diversity plan part 1 to Dr. Spencer. CEEC - Structures, Dr. Hayes is working on the diversity plan part 1.

6. New Engineering Building Update – Rama Venkat

- Harriet Cox's pledge for \$3Million is coming in to support the Senior Design Program. Funds will be made in three payments in the amount of \$1Million per year for the period 2014-2016.
- Cox family is holding the \$9Million for the building. The President's Office has provided \$100K to prepare the proposal and the Request for Qualifications through P&C.
- Dean Venkat is working with the Advisory Board to get more donors.
- The engineering building could be approved by Board of Regent within two cycles.

7. Renewable, IT, UAS and Tech Commercialization Leads – Rama Venkat

- The college has the following successful minors and leads:
 - Solar & Renewable Energy, Dave James
 - Information Technology (IT), Kazem Taghva
 - Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) , Woosoon Yim
 - Technology Commercialization, Pushkin Kachroo (Dominic Morrocco is teaching classes)
 - Entertainment Engineering and Design, Peter Stubberud.
- Dean Venkat recommended improving dissemination of minors between students.

8. Ethics – Rama Venkat, Mohamed Trabia

- Plagiarism is a serious ethical issue in our college.
- Our college should develop students' awareness of intentional and unintentional plagiarism.
- Dean Venkat recommended educating our students through a 30-minute seminar on ethics and plagiarism awareness. Seminar will be required for new graduate students and senior design classes.
- Department Chair will discuss recommendation with faculty for the following:
 - Prepare diagnostic of plagiarism problems in their departments.
 - Use of web campus to detect plagiarism
 - Implementation of the 30-minute ethic seminar starting this semester.