EXCOM Minutes - March 19, 2015

1. Pre-Award Services OSP – Rich Easter
   - Rich Easter was introduced as the new contact person for Pre-Award Services of the Office of Sponsored Projects.
   - Dean Venkat recommended inviting Rich to attend Department Faculty Meetings.

2. Minor Programs and Directors
   - Solar and Renewable Energy (SRE) – David James
     - The transition from College of Urban Affairs to the College of Engineering has been completed.
     - Web page and brochures will be redesigned and updated.
     - The program has provided funding and support for hands-on learning activities for the solar class, 2015 DOE Race to Zero Home Design competition, and outreach activities to promote the program.
     - Financial support for the SRE undergraduate minor through scholarships.
     - The program provides academic advising for course alternatives, course changes, and review graduate certificate applications.
     - Point of contact for internships and public inquiries.
     - Upcoming changes for SRE minor and graduate certificate: learning outcomes, curriculum and course revisions.
     - Convene an interdisciplinary Advisory Council with members from engineering, business, urban affairs, fine arts, sciences and liberal arts.
     - Generate a graduate handbook as required by Graduate College.
     - Better integration of SRE with Senior Design projects.
     - Needed external relations activities: second meeting with NV Energy regarding progress and repurpose of SRE, form the SRE industry advisory council, meet with college and foundation regarding fundraising.
   - Engineering Entrepreneurship and Industry Partnership Programs – Pushkin Kachroo
     - Senior Design
       - Collaboration with Business School students to design a business and/or marketing plan
       - Students are reimbursed for the cost of building the prototype
     - Technology Commercialization: Undergraduate Minor and Certificate Program
       - The minor is intended to expose engineering and computer science majors to the elements of technology commercialization with the relevant aspects of both entrepreneurship and commercialization of innovative products and ideas within established enterprises. TechComm Minor Courses: 19-21 credits
       - A significant component is to combine the final year curriculum with the senior design experience and participation in a business plan competition.
       - The Certificate in Technology Commercialization provides students with the necessary knowledge foundation in technology commercialization. TechComm Certificate: 12 credits
     - UNLV Rebel Program
       - Industrial sponsorship for senior design projects. The program will allow a company to recruit a senior design team to work on a problem of interest to them.
       - Depending on the level of sponsorship, an agreement would be drawn up for the project.
       - Companies and sponsors should contact Pushkin Kachroo to start discussions on details for their contract for a project. The details of each project can vary in amount, time, and agreement.
   - IT Program – Kazem Taghva
     - The IT Program has one minor and two certificates: IT Minor, IT Certificate, and IT Web-Development Certificate.
     - Information Technology Minor was designed for non-computer science majors to provide students with a digital background, incorporate IT into student’s discipline, understanding the basics of machine learning, and help students obtain employment.
     - Needed resources: IT Lab
   - UAS Minor
     - Director: Woosoon Yim
     - The UAS Minor has 12 student enrolled.
     - UAS Educational Outreach Certificate has 20 students (Instructor: Jonathan Daniels)

3. Engineering Robotics Videos – Megan Downs
   - UNLV DARPA Robotics and Skyworks videos were presented
   - Dr. Oh’s DRC-Hubo Team has been selected by DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Project Agency) as one of the 25 teams to participate in the DARPA Robotics Challenge.
   - The competition will be held on June 5-6, 2015 at Fairplex in Pomona, California.
   - Videos will be used as part of the college recruitment strategies.

4. Discussion on US News & World Report and action
   - College received the following ranking versus last year ranking (#):
     - Graduate Program:
       - Civil 91 (99)
       - Mechanical 128 (unranked)
     - Undergraduate 139 (151)
• Undergraduate ranking moved up 12 spots.
• CEEC (maintaining Tier 1 status and improving the rank by 8 spots)
• Dean Venkat encouraged Department Chairs to keep moving in the right direction (e.g. continuing department newsletters, department seminars, etc.)
• To improve, the expert opinion from US News ranking: the College is inviting Associate Deans and Department Chairs from other universities to serve as judges for Graduate Celebration Best Thesis, Best Dissertation and Poster Competition.

5. Seminar Series – Brendan O’Toole
• Mechanical Engineering offers 8-10 seminars every semester for faculty and graduate students.
• Speakers are Department Chairs or Associate Deans from other universities.
• Seminars are funded with Department Funds (ME Overhead) and cover airfare and hotel for the guest speaker.

6. Engineering Building Update – Rama Venkat
• The President’s Office has provided $100K to prepare the proposal and the Request for Qualifications through P&C.
• Within the next three months we should expect to be contacted by the architects to interview and initial discussions with faculty and staff to gather information on needs, goals and requirements.
• Architectural plan should be ready during Fall Semester. Upon approval, we can go out for fundraising.
• Cox family is holding the $9Million for the building
• The engineering building could be approved by Board of Regent within two cycles.

7. Graduate Celebration – Mohamed Trabia
• The Graduate Celebration will be held on May 4, 2015 in the SEB Lobby and auditorium
• Dean Venkat encourages each department to submit at least 10 posters before the deadline (April 20) to elevate this competition. This is the time to showcase and at the same time celebrate our graduate programs.
• We are bringing in judges from Associate Deans and Deans from other universities.

8. Graduate Recruitment Award – Mohamed Trabia / Rama Venkat
• Graduate College is offering $20,000 in recruitment scholarships that will be packaged with the new student’s financial aid.
• The college is distributing funds as four $5K on-time awards, leaving it open for all colleges.
• Dean Venkat encourages Department Chairs to use these awards to recruit the best students following college criteria for qualification. The goal is to make our programs more competitive in recruiting great graduate students.