

NMSU College of Engineering
Dean's Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
August 25-26, 2016
Las Cruces, NM

Thursday, August 25, 2016

Council Members Present

Joseph Perea, Chair
Randy Rothchild, Vice Chair

College of Engineering Personnel Present

Lakshmi Reddi
Patricia Sullivan
Stephanie Armitage
Sonya Cooper
Edward Pines
Reuy-Hung Chen

Welcome

Council Chair Joseph Perea called the meeting to order introducing newly appointed Dean Lakshmi Reddi.

Strategic Vision for the College: Lakshmi Reddi


Dean Reddi gave a presentation on his vision for the College of Engineering. He focused on the metrics used by the U.S. News and World Reports to rank college programs. He identified peer assessment as a key area in which the NMSU College of Engineering lags behind in the rankings. He noted that marketing and communication activities are essential in boosting this area in the rankings. Of particular interest to the council were the factors for national rankings which Dean Reddi referenced:

- Undergraduate programs are heavily dependent on how well peer institutions know NMSU COE.
- For Graduate Programs there are several factors:
 - Peer assessment 25 percent weighting
 - Research \$/faculty
 - Ph.D. faculty
 - Ph.D.s produced

Dean Reddi also outlined his top four priorities for the college:

1. student recruitment/retention
2. fundraising – branding and visibility is critical component
3. research
4. operational efficiencies

He stated the college leadership team, including the department heads, associate and assistant deans, is working toward setting specific goals and action plans.





Associate Deans' Reports

- Dr. Sonya Cooper, associate dean of academics, reported on the success of the Engineering 100 classes. She also described recruiting and retention activities.
- Dr. Patricia Sullivan, associate dean of outreach, shared information about the Aggie Innovation Space and the success of its transition to a student-led operation.
- Dr. Edward Pines, industrial engineering department head and director of engineering distance education, gave a report regarding the Distance Education Program in the college. Council members noted that distance education offerings should be increased and there is a need for the college to invest additional resources to its distance education program.
- Stephanie Armitage, associate dean of development, discussed the need for increasing funding to the dean's discretionary account to support a Distinguished Lecture Series. She also discussed the need to increase funding to support student retention activities.

Departmental Reports

The Mechanical and Aerospace Department, along with the Chemical and Materials Engineering Department, were invited to report to the Council because of the timeline of the renovation of Jett Hall, which houses both departments.

- Dr. David Rockstraw, Chemical and Materials Engineering Department Head, outlined a detailed set of initiatives for the CHME department. His plans were well received by the Council members. He also described the new Brewery Engineering minor program. The minor is supported by engineering alum Frank Sidel. This, too, was well received. Lastly, Dr. Rockstraw presented data collected to support assessment for the department, which are posted on the departmental web site, which was praised by the Council members.
- Dr. Reuy-Hung Chen, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering Department Head, gave a presentation on the department's research activities and the potential for increased research. He noted the limited number of faculty and high enrollment as a hindrance to growing the research program.


Ken Ruble, director of the Student Project Center for MAE, and mechanical engineering senior Caitlynn Roy, gave a presentation about NMSU's student chapter of the Society of Automotive Engineers' Mini Baja Team. Their presentation was well received by Council members.

Friday, August 26, 2016

President and Provost Report

NMSU President Garrey Carruthers and Provost Dan Howard relayed to Council members the importance of the College of Engineering as one of NMSU's cornerstone colleges and its historical significance, dating back to its beginnings in the late 1800s. They extended their support to the new dean. Several Council members asked questions, many regarding the surveying engineering program. Carruthers and Howard supported Dean Reddi's point that now is a moment of opportunity to work with industry to identify the best course of action to move forward with the program.

Howard spoke about how NMSU needs to move beyond NSF research which is at reduced funding rates and needs to jump into cyber. He believes in investing in this area. The council discussed newly appointed Research Dean Phillip Deleon's role at the research POC and how this should become part of his pursuits.





Business Meeting

Council Chair Joseph Perea called the business meeting to order. Motion to approve minutes was made and seconded. Majority voted to accept minutes. Perea called for reports on action items from the February 2016 meeting.

Action Items

1. Establish a subcommittee to work with the college administration to find solutions to meet the surveying engineering needs in the state.
2. Elaboration on plans to provide non-cognitive skills to students and the need for funding activities such as a distinguished lecture series, mentoring and tutoring, soft skill training, etc. Based on recent success, continued support from council members requested for COE proposals.
3. Further discussion at all levels in the college on the reduction of credit hours to 120.
4. Historically, NMSU COE used to get national ranking credit for the Physical Science Laboratory. Further assess with PSL if this can be considered in the future.

With no further business, Perea adjourned the meeting.

