

Minutes of the Dean's Advisory Council Meeting
NMSU College of Engineering
October 4, 2018
NMSU, Las Cruces, New Mexico

Council Attendees

Randolph Rothschild, Chair
Jack Davis
Lou Gomez
Carlos Gutierrez
Richard Madrid
David Martinez
Manny Mora
Bob Myers
Mark Robertson
Albert M. Thomas
Eloy Torrez
Bud Waters
Daniel Whiteman

Guests

Dan Arvizu
Debra Hicks

College Personnel

Lakshmi Reddi, Dean
Phillip DeLeon, Associate Dean
Patricia Sullivan, Associate Dean
Mark Gladden, Development Director
Stephanie Armitage Sichler, Development Director
David Jauregui, Civil Engineering Department Head
Ruinian Jiang, Engineering Technology and Surveying
Engineering Department Head
Hansuk Sohn, Industrial Engineering Department Head
Steven Stochaj, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Department Head
David Rockstraw, Chemical and Materials Engineering
Department Head and Interim Mechanical and
aerospace Engineering Department Head
Linda Fresques, College Chief of Staff

Welcome

Council Chair Randy Rothschild called the meeting to order and welcomed council members and guests.

- February 2018 minutes were approved.
- Action items from February 18 meeting were reviewed.

Dean Lakshmi Reddi

ABET Visit: Dean Reddi gave preliminary findings of the ABET visit earlier in the week. Two college strengths were noted:

1. The college history of student-centric initiatives, i.e. Leadership Institute, Aggie Innovation Space, Engineering Capstone Design Program.
2. The extraordinary alumni and industry support enjoyed by the college. Weaknesses include faculty turnover issues and four department head vacancies. The final assessment will be presented in July.

Engineering Leadership Institute: The institute is a philosophical framework to develop both inter- and intrapersonal strengths that will be provided to a cohort of select students. Ron Seidel will

support this effort. Selection criteria will be developed and participants will develop a portfolio and there will be concrete tangible measures such as community service, engagement and attendance of lectures.

Aggie Innovation Space: The college will submit a proposal for increased state funding and is hoping to develop other funding sources to consolidate fragmented locations, expand AIS activities, modernize equipment and support a director.

Eloy Torrez Family Learning Communities in Engineering: Construction is going on in the facility and should be complete by the beginning of the spring semester. The peer mentoring and tutoring functions are going very strong. The end goal is to increase retention and decrease time to graduation.

Recomposition of the Dean's Advisory Council: At the February meeting, members expressed a desire to be more actively involved with the college. Such engagement is valuable to the college, for example, saving and updating the surveying program. Industry input and direction will help to keep programs relevant and influence funding. Council committees will be developed to provide more opportunities for member engagement on new initiatives and elicit help and assistance from members. These committees will work with appropriate college faculty and leadership and will report to the council as a whole.

Chancellor Dan Arvizu

Chancellor Arvizu, a '73 engineering alum, said it was very compelling to come back to NMSU. He is a son of immigrants who came to school on a music scholarship. He felt it offered a tremendous opportunity for him to promote advances in education, immigration reform, energy and the environment, health, science and technology. NMSU is a platform for all and it is a very compelling way to spend the capstone of his career. He has been actively working toward bring PSL back to the vibrant organization it was in the past. It is on probation of losing its classified facility status and Arvizu is in the process of reinstating that status which is critical for generating new revenue and contracts.

He would like to establish a National Laboratory for Homeland Security here. He is working with El Paso Electric to establish a 200 megawatt solar field that could be a learning laboratory for microgrid research, promote sustainability and reduce the campus carbon footprint.

He has been conducting a 100-day assessment of NMSU and found there are great things happening here, but a lot of processes that hinder performance in a culture that resists change. He and his team will work to change that atmosphere.

STEM educational programs on campus are totally uncoordinated—some 287 of them—and he will try to bring those together in a collaborative effort. Student success efforts have been fragmented and need to be owned by all from beginning to end. Distance education will be a priority—the university

needs to meet students where they reside. The university needs to tap into the more than 300,000 military personnel in the region. They are not choosing to go to NMSU.

Regent Debra Hicks, engineering alumna

Regent Hicks gave an update on the Regents' activities and noted their enthusiasm for the new administration's focus on student success.

Strategic Plan Draft

Dean Reddi presented the draft of the College of Engineering Strategic Plan. He asked for input and recommendations from council members. Their input was recorded and will be taken into consideration in development of the final plan. The strategic plan will not be finalized until the NMSU strategic plan is finalized so that the college plan will be in accordance with the university plan.

Action Items:

- Dean Reddi will outline strategic efforts for council committee tasks
- The Electrical Engineering Academy will revisit their measured retention strategy and share with other academies
- David Martinez has offered to help with a grant workshop.