



SAN DIEGO STATE  
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

### *Minutes*

Wednesday, March 20, 2013, 3:30pm  
Dean's Conference Room

**Present:** Dean D. Hayhurst; Drs. M. Mehrabadi, N. Nosseir, L. Tummala, K. Walsh, B. Westermo; Mr. L. Hinkle, and Ms. K. Young

**Absent:** Mr. D. Irwin

**Guest:** Dr. S. Welter

**Call to Order:** The meeting called to order at 3:33 pm.

1. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the February 20, 2013 and March 6, 2013 meetings were reviewed. Minutes from 2/20 were approved pending changes provided by Dr. Mehrabadi. Minutes from 3/6 were approved.
2. **Cluster Hires:** Dean Welter discussed cluster hires and how they can help interdisciplinary groups pursue large grants. He explained that the strategic plan for the cluster hires is to help departments focus on areas that they think could be real areas of strength; doing things better, distinctively, and building on existing strengths. Details have not been finalized, but there may be three (3) clusters of five (5) new faculty or four (4) clusters of four (4) new faculty. Departments are to identify new faculty; Dean Welter is hoping for no more than two (2) within a department. He would like to see something innovative; conceivably a cluster could all stay in Engineering, but all parties need to think about how that is attractive to the entire academic community and figure out ways to promote collaborative interdisciplinary innovation. There will be an expectation that resources invested beyond the positions by the departments and College; Dean Welter would like to see things such as assigned time, etc. Areas of excellence/cluster hires will definitely be funded; \$2M has been set aside for the cluster. There is a need for additional resources for normal startup packages. Likelihood of research and funding success is higher if the University hires in clusters. Dean Welter stated that the cost will most likely have to be distributed over time, preferably over 2 years. It is necessary to identify the right people.

Dr. Tummala inquired about resources for infrastructure in terms of space for new faculty.

Dr. Mehrabadi mentioned ME faculty candidate has a \$500K NSF Career Award. Candidate has graduate students he would like to bring and has a need for about \$225K of equipment. Dean Welter stated that the faculty hire would not fit the cluster model but would meet the investment model.

Dean Welter stated that he favors hiring associate professors and sees a need for an associate professor in clusters as well, as more experience is preferable. A request was made to create a website that all parties could post their cluster ideas to find similar matches for possible proposals. Dean Welter stated that there was not enough time to match-make but would happily share what is emerging as they come to him, but suggested that faculty form relationships naturally. Currently he has been presented with the following cluster ideas: consumer water economics, climate change, wildfires, spatial data analysis, and a center on aging. He stated that he would not fund a technique, that it must be an area of expertise. He strongly advised against writing a cluster around a technique, even though it might be a foundation to do something different. There are no joint hires/appointments, only hiring into an individual department, hires will be reviewed by that department, but will be part of a larger group, which is a natural synergism. It is too early for written proposals. Graduate and Research Affairs intends to invite outside people to facilitate a better conversation from groups.

3. **Faculty Development Funds:** Mr. Irwin announced that Academic Affairs has released some development funds to the Colleges to support faculty. A limited amount of money has been spent to replace out-of-date computers. The remaining funds will be transferred to each department's account to pay for departmental expenses such as faculty travel, faculty development, research, student assistants, teaching assistants, or graduate assistants, etc. The funds are distributed based on the number of faculty in the department, and should be used at the discretion of the department. The money needs to be committed by the end of the fiscal year. Any questions should be routed to Mr. Irwin.
4. **Graduate Program Review Visit:** Dr. Westermo reviewed the academic review panel schedule.
5. **Explore SDSU:** Mr. Hinkle reported that he did not yet have enough staff and faculty volunteers for Explore SDSU Day. He requested that all Chairs ask for faculty and staff involvement from their respective departments.

**6. Faculty Searches Status:**

- ERC – there was discussion as to if the candidate would be assigned to the Electrical Engineering department, Mechanical Engineering, or joint. Dean Hayhurst stated that he would determine which department is the best fit for the candidate once he receives the approval to negotiate from Provost Marlin.
- ME – three (3) to be interviewed; first choice received an offer from another university in New Jersey, but still shows a lot of interest, even though salaries are higher in New Jersey; second candidate was indecisive and withdrew; third candidate will be visiting campus on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Dr. Mehrabadi stated that the challenge will be startup funds.
- CCEE – applications have been reviewed, six (6) candidates have been identified, they are obtaining letters of reference, and interviews are to be scheduled the second week of April.

**7. Curiosity Team Presentation:** Mr. Hinkle reported that College of Engineering students will receive invitations on April 1<sup>st</sup>, clubs will receive invitations the week of March 25<sup>th</sup>, and flyers will be disseminated at Explore SDSU Day. Greg Block's office sent out invitations March 19<sup>th</sup> to entire campus.

**8. Honor's College Reception:** On March 22<sup>nd</sup> 500 students will be coming to campus with parents for an Honor's College reception. Dean Hayhurst asked that Chairs (or their designee) attend the reception to meet the students interested in Engineering. Ms. Young to forward the details to Chairs.

**9. Academic Dean's Council:** Nothing to report.

**10. Roundtable**

- Dr. Tummala stated that during President Hirshman's visit to the Engineering building, he commented on the condition of the hallway walls, and suggested they be addressed. Dean Hayhurst will have Mr. Irwin contact Bob Schultz, the campus architect, to provide estimates for completely refurbishing or cleaning up the hallways on all 3 floors.

**Adjourned:** The meeting adjourned at 5:09pm.