Electrical Engineering Advisory Board Meeting

Friday, March 3, 2006, 1:00 p.m., C1103

The Electrical Engineering Industrial Advisory Board Meeting was attended by Dr. Myler, Dr. Bean, Dr. Maxum, Dr. Reddy, Dr. Sayil, Dr. Wang, Dickey Arndt, Hap Call, Beth Wheeler, Jason Dugas, Ron Franklin, James Steffek, Gary Cruse, and Joseph Young. Minutes were taken by Jane Stanley.

Members introduced themselves.
Dr. Myler presented the state of the department. Electrical engineering department rejects over 75% of applicants. The Average GRE score for our current graduate students is 1250. There is a reduction in Graduate enrollment. There are 135 PREEs. This is the most in the College of Engineering.

Should investigate an electrical engineering technology degree for those students that don’t make EE.

A new course is being developed and taught by Dr. Bean for non-EEs; Fund of Electrical Engr. This will incorporate the needed areas of circuits, electronics and machines for other engineers.
We are considering combing Circuits I and Circuits Lab as well as Electronics I and Electronics Lab. Then these would only be for our electrical engineering students.

Math 3401 Differential Equations & Linear Algebra is being divided into MATH 3301 Ordinary Differential Equations and Math 2318 Linear Algebra. Linear Algebra should be changed to a 3 level course and the electrical engineers could take one more 4 level math course and get a Math minor.

Jason Dugas proposed help from the “board” assessing proposals before being submitted.

Dr. Myer: this would be a big help. The structure at Lamar for “okaying” proposals is difficult. At some other universities they can be done online with approvals in a very short period of time.

Hap Call: If we have 135 PREEs, will we need to have Circuits I more than once per year?

Dr. Myler: I will keep close contact with Ms. Caddy to determine if this is needed. We also have problems with students with co-ops, etc. We and “Texas” want to facilitate making it easier for students to graduate in four years.
Dr. Maxum discussed his new book. Electrical Engineers have 18 credits in Math. A number of courses could be added if we had enough faculty members. He also discussed his recent graduates and students’ theses and his recent proposals.

Dr. Bean discussed his new course Fund of Electrical Engineering. It will cover the necessary information needed for the FE exam.

Dr. Wang discussed the courses he is teaching and his lab.

Dr. Reddy discussed his courses, students’ theses and the work done. He also discussed his recent proposals and conference papers. He hopes to make a proposal with fuel cells.

Dr. Sayil discussed his role as the IEEE advisor and his courses electronics and VLSI. He also discussed his proposals and conference papers.

Refreshment Break

Dr. Myler discussed ABET issues and proposed another meeting to discuss ABET after he attends the ECEDHA ABET workshop. SWECEDHA was held here at Lamar, a plus for our department as well as Lamar. It is difficult to get feedback from employers to find out if Lamar EEs are well prepared.

Ron Franklin: Don’t use an individual name; just ask in general and you should have better results.

Dr. Myler: We have had poor response to our one-year out and five-year out questionnaires. Evaluations will be on-line and students have been told that they must do them before they can get their grades.

New Hire in Power Electronics. Sent email to invite three candidates just in time. We need at least nine faculty members in order to apply for the Ph.D. The Higher Education Coordinating Board is in Austin. We should discuss changes in the program. What is needed: Is there a call for this in industry, etc.?

James Steffek: Optics is used more and more every day. Local jobs would use this.

Ron Franklin: Industries look for a long-term employee that is high quality and can apply knowledge and grow.
Jason Dugas: It is hard to find a good bare-bones engineer.

Ron Franklin: Need also to be able to work well on a team (they must work well with others).

Dickey Arndt: The future courses should consider the Beaumont area materials or photonics.

Dr. Myler: We have software for photonics but not labs. We don’t have the funding for the lab. We have the same funding as when Dr. Maxum first came.