The Electrical Engineering Industrial Advisory Board Meeting was attended by Dr. Myler, Dr. Bean, Dr. Maxum, Dr. Reddy, Joe Gallio, James Cypert, Dickey Arndt, Hap Call, Beth Wheeler, Jason Schexnayder, Jason Dugas, Glenn Yentzen and Joseph Young. Minutes were taken by Jane Stanley.

Members introduced themselves.
Dr. Myler presented the state of the department. Rita caused the fall semester to be compressed. It added five minutes to each class and extended the semester to December 22, 2005. We lost $10,000 in equipment due to the power surge. The department kept all EE’s-two delayed enrollment. One returned for spring and one is returning in the fall. Course fees help us to replace equipment and/or keep software up to date and renew licenses.

ABET will visit in November 2006. We will be using what was first known as EC2000; change over to new system which is now just “ABET”. This is a total quality management system.

Our ABET is mostly online, but we don’t have course evaluations tied to the report. Our courses are tied to SACS syllabi online. Lamar will be hiring a fulltime person for SACS accreditation for 2009. This helps us for ABET. SACS looks at the undergraduate and graduate program.

Dr. Myler presented our website: history, schedules, labs, etc. He described the LUEE ELVIS board. We have 20 National Instruments systems. NI charges about $125 and we charge $80. High school students visit sites often and our website is a good way to get information out.

We have been informed that the program must be reduced to 120 hrs. Must explain that electrical engineering program requires more for ABET.

Refreshment Break at 3:00.

The board discussed objectives versus program outcomes.

Employer Surveys: does Lamar graduate of EE program meet expected standards and how can this be improved.

Hap Call: is there a Power course remaining? Only “Machines” –no special Power course elective.
Beth Wheeler: Power specialists are an aging group and are going to be greatly needed.

Dr. Myler: we did search for a Power person and interviewed. Just before hiring, the position was pulled.

Dr. Bean: Dr. Cooke taught Power on senior and graduate levels. Our graduates were greatly valued by Gulf States Utilities.

Dr. Reddy: More people will be needed for forty nuclear plants.

Hap Call: We are going to be hurting for power engineers in this area.

Glenn Yentzen: For a long time there hasn’t been a demand. Now there is a shortage.

Dr. Myler: CEO’s or Plant Managers need to go to the president or provost and impress upon them the need of a Power based program.

Machines course needs to be modernized. Machines is not required by ABET, but is expected and needed by local energy. It wouldn’t survive as an elective.

James Cypert: Would changing the department name to ECE make it more appealing?

Dr. Myler: If you have the word Computer in your name, you must have Discreet Math. We would have to go to the state for a name change and this is very complicated. We have decided that every electrical engineer is also a computer engineer. We formerly had both a computer engineering path and an electrical engineering path. We merged both and now require Microcomputers I and II. Now all electrical engineers are also computer engineers. We must get the word out to high school students what electrical engineers do.

Optical engineering is up and coming. It is mostly in the graduate program and is working into the undergraduate level.

Research is being emphasized. Other universities are separating their research activities and teaching. New hires must have research.

The department has teaching labs but not research labs. There is not enough money. Hope to get teaching labs that could double as research labs.

A lot of money for research is gotten politically.
Dr. Myler showed and explained the senior projects. Sponsoring is appreciated. This year four projects were sponsored.