

**SEEC Executive Team Meeting w/External Advisory Board Members,
Leigh Hagenson-Thompson and Jim Melsa
April 15, 2010**

Present: Monica Bruning, Mary Darrow, Mary Goodwin, Leigh Hagenson-Thompson, Gloria Hill, Joel Johnson, Jim Melsa, Steve Mickelson, and Diane Rover

Absent: Robyn Cooper, Frankie Laanan, and Mack Shelley

Meeting Goal: Share SEEC project information and get feedback from external advisory board members

1) Team Members/Introductions

- **Mary Goodwin** – Advisor/transfer student coordinator in Engineering Student Services. Trains advisors at community colleges.
- **Mary Darrow** – SEEC Project Coordinator. Transfer recruitment with focus on community colleges.
- **Joel Johnson** – Director of Engineering Student Services
- **Steve Mickelson** – Ag & Biosystems Engr. Professor, Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CELT), and Co-Director for Learning Communities Initiative at ISU. Oversees SEEC Learning Village objective team.
- **Monica Bruning** – Director of Engineering Talent Expansion. Oversees SEEC Networking objective team with emphasis on recruitment and Extension.
- **Diane Rover** – Associate Dean of Engineering and PI of project
- **Gloria Hill** – Administrative Assistant, supporting Dr. Rover
- **Jim Melsa** – Retired, now emeritus dean; Served as Dean of Engineering @ ISU 1995-2004.
- **Leigh Hagenson-Thompson** – R&D Technology Leader, The Dow Chemical Company in Midland, Michigan.

Rover stated contacts have been made at STEP Grantees conference with the other two external board members - Bob Driggs, Dean of Mathematics & Science at Kirkwood College, and Kimberly Douglas-Mankin, Director of Women in Engr. & Science at Kansas State University. Douglas-Mankin has expressed an interest in exchanging/sharing data.

2) Overview of Project/Discussion

- Melsa suggested involving Dale Johnson in project as he has an interest in STEM.
- The SEEC project goal is to increase the number of engineering graduates at Iowa State University by ~100 students/year, strengthening the partnership between ISU and DMACC, and advancing the learning environment of each school.
- NSF approved funding of \$1.5 million for ISU and \$500K for DMACC over a 5 year period. End date is 2012 and funding has been received for 4 years.
- DMACC and ISU project teams have had one joint meeting/semester since project began.
- Enrollment information:
 - Transfers compose of ~15% of new engineering enrollment.
 - Tuition revenue from transfer students includes student-credit-hour tuition for engineering courses and differential tuition for juniors and seniors.
 - The ISU Admissions Partnership Program (APP) was developed to help community college students transition smoothly/successfully.
 - Collaboration with community colleges enhances recruiting.
 - The percentage of women engineering students has remained flat around 15-16% and is below the national average. This may be in part due to high enrollments in majors such as mechanical, electrical/computer, and aerospace that are among the smallest percentages. The ETEC project with Extension is designed to improve the participation of women.

- Community colleges typically prefer transfer plans/agreements that allow students to take two years of courses and match up courses for a smooth transition.
- The current engineering job market may temporarily inflate enrollment/graduate numbers.
- Graduation rate is over 70% for students involved in Learning Communities. The retention of first-year, first-time engineering students within the university is 88.5%, the highest of any college.
- International enrollment is steadily increasing, especially with Chinese students.
- Pre- and post-surveys are given to transfer students to gain insight into their engineering experience. The University conducts a survey of all incoming students.
- DMACC collaborated with ISU at recent Discover Engineering Day event at DMACC Ankeny campus.
- Mack Shelley leads the project evaluation team, which oversees project effectiveness, activities, and data collection.
- Sustainability and partnerships with industry/corporations will be discussed at future external and internal advisory board meetings.
- Learning Community (LC) funding at ISU is solid as LCs support retention.
- Faculty and staff campus-wide are engaged with project.
- The engineering recruitment brochure emphasizes how engineering helps people.
- “Engineering Going For It (eGFI) – Dream Up the Future” (ASEE) and “Changing the Conversation” (NAE) publications are helping broaden the public image of engineering.
- Hagenson-Thompson suggested using U.S. and international graduate students as recruiters/ambassadors.

3) **NSF Third-Year Review**

- Project underwent 3-year review with NSF in March with 3 panelists. Formal feedback is forthcoming.
- Panelists indicated they do want to see “direct” effects of project.