**Engineering Faculty Advisory Committee Monthly Meeting**  
**Friday, 23 October 2009**

Meeting with Dr. Kem Bennett,  
Vice Chancellor—Engineering, Director of TEES, Dean College of Engineering

(1) Topic: September 18 Mtg. Minutes (Appendix E). Any Further Changes??

(2) Topic: Posting of Agenda on EFAC Website  
From: Nancy Amato, Computer Science and Engineering

The agendas should be posted on the website along with the minutes. Posting should occur soon after the corresponding EFAC mtg.

(3) Topic: COE Guidelines for Acute Family Care  
From: Georgia-Ann Klutke, Industrial Engineering

Last year, the EFAC discussed the issue of temporary duty reassignment for faculty who need to care for family members. It was mentioned that treatment was often inconsistent across departments and that both faculty members and department heads were unsure of what may or may not be appropriate. Dean Bennett requested that guidelines be drafted for his consideration. Over the summer, a group of senior women in the college drafted a proposal. The Dean commented on the proposal at the 18 September EFAC mtg. and an EFAC subcommittee consisting of Georgia-Ann Klutke, Nancy Amato, Deepa Kundur (non-EFAC committee member from Electrical Engineering) and David Schechter was formed to finalize a draft proposal to the Dean and the full EFAC subcommittee. Georgia-Ann will provide an update on the sub-committee’s progress.

(4) Topic:  
From: Warren Heffington ME  
Though: Alan Palazzolo, Mechanical Engineering

We just received the call for awards for Engineering Faculty Awards. All departments are limited to one nomination in each of the areas of teaching, service and engineering contributions. It seems reasonable that the large departments might have more than one outstanding nominee in an area who would be better than the nominee from a small department or even the other large departments.

I suggest that nominee numbers be based on department size, with all departments having at least one in each area. Precedent is the University AFS awards where numbers are based on the sizes of the various colleges.
(5) Topic: TAMU Lead PI Positions on QNRF Proposals Halted
From: Alan Palazzolo, Mechanical Engineering
Jim Holste’s memo bars TAMU faculty from holding Lead PI positions and limits TAMUQ faculty to a maximum of 2 proposals on QNRF Round 3 proposals. This new policy may have an effect of turning away QNRF funding from TAMU faculty. Has there been any change in this TAMUQ decision?

(6) Topic: Grade Inflation
From: Anonymous
Through: Carl D. Laird, Chemical Engineering
There have been a number of recent articles showing grade inflation at many universities across the country. There is a strong desire to ensure and maintain the quality and value of the degree issued from A&M. Does the College of Engineering track grades and report on rising or declining grades? Does the College have rules or guidelines for expected grade distributions in individual classes? If these exist, are they to be considered at the college or department level? Are grade distributions considered in the nomination and selection of teaching awards?

(7) Topic: Political Solicitations Directed to TAMU email addresses
From: Andy Banerjee, Industrial Engineering
Through: Georgia-Ann Lutke, Industrial Engineering
Faculty have received email at their tamu.edu addresses from the campaign organization Dave McIntyre, the former Director of the Texas A&M University Integrative Center for Homeland Security. Does the University endorse this behavior from a former staff member, and if not, what can be done to prevent future occurrences?

Sample
From: Dave McIntyre for Congress [media-pr@votemcintyre.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 14, 2009 11:32 AM
To:
Subject: McIntyre for Congress Newsletter

[http://www.votemcintyre.com/pictures/NL-banner.jpg]
Meet, Greet, and Free Supper with Dave in Waco - Tomorrow, October 15th
First 100 people to join our Meet Dave/Fundraiser at Rudy's on Circle Drive in Waco, eat free. Thursday 15 October, 6-7 pm. Come help us roast the liberals and dine on barbecue. Your chance to ask Dave any question you want in person. No speeches - just table talk! (We still need one person to help sponsor this event with a $200 donation<http://www.votemcintyre.com/contribute/>)

Candidate Forum in Waco, 1130 AM - Tomorrow, October 15th
The McLennan County Republican Party will sponsor a candidate forum and lunch at 1130 am on Thursday 15 October. Heart of Texas Builders Assn. Bldg., 621 W. Hwy 6. Please contact the McLennan County Republican Party to RSVP. And come early! There will be a crowd to hear Dave.

Dave Releases Television Commercial

--------

McIntyre for Congress
P.O. BOX 11968, College Station, TX 77842
media-pr@VoteMcIntyre.com

(8) Topic: COE Electronics Design and Fabrication Shop
    From: Alan Palazzolo, Mechanical Engineering
    Through: Alan Palazzolo, Mechanical Engineering

Technology is progressing towards a greater dependence on embedded electronics to achieve smart machines and structures as evidenced for example by recent thrusts for more electric vehicles, aircraft, ships, etc. For the past 20 years, many engineering faculty members have relied on the Physics Dept’s electronic design shop PDEDS for designing and fabricating custom prototypes. This practice is now impeded by increased usage of the PDEDS by Physics faculty that pay less than one-fourth of the $35/hr. charge to non-Physics faculty. I estimate that the cost to startup a viable shop would be about $400k. Is there support for a COE electronics design shop from other departments? What type of cost-usage study would the Dean like to be performed to justify this investment, if he considers this an acceptable endeavor?

(9) Topic: Update on Engineering Education Institute
    From: Nancy Amato, CSCE
    Through: Nancy Amato, CSCE

Would the Dean please comment on the current status and the plans for the future of the E^2I (Engineering Education Institute).

(10) Any Additional Items from the Floor??

(11) Meeting Adjourned
APPENDICES
APPENDIX A

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Engineering Faculty Advisory Council Schedule
2009-2010  12:30 - 1:30 p.m., Rm. 201 WERC

September 18, 2009
October 23, 2009
November 13, 2009
December 11, 2009
January 15, 2010
February 12, 2010
March 12, 2010
April 16, 2010
May 7, 2010

EFAC Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dept.</th>
<th>Representative</th>
<th>email</th>
<th>3 Year Term Expires on End of May</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AERO</td>
<td>Adonios N. Karpetis</td>
<td><a href="mailto:karpetis@tamu.edu">karpetis@tamu.edu</a></td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMEN</td>
<td>John Criscione</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jccriscione@tamu.edu">jccriscione@tamu.edu</a></td>
<td>2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAEN</td>
<td>Rosana G. Moreira</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rmoreira@tamu.edu">rmoreira@tamu.edu</a></td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEN</td>
<td>Carl Laird</td>
<td><a href="mailto:cdlaird@tamu.edu">cdlaird@tamu.edu</a></td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPSC</td>
<td>Nancy Amato</td>
<td><a href="mailto:amato@cs.tamu.edu">amato@cs.tamu.edu</a></td>
<td>Vice Chair 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVEN</td>
<td>Mark Burris</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mburris@civil.tamu.edu">mburris@civil.tamu.edu</a></td>
<td>Secretary 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECEN</td>
<td>Laszlo Kish</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Laszlo.Kish@ece.tamu.edu">Laszlo.Kish@ece.tamu.edu</a></td>
<td>2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETID</td>
<td>Jorge Alvarado</td>
<td><a href="mailto:alvarado@entc.tamu.edu">alvarado@entc.tamu.edu</a></td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISEN</td>
<td>Georgia Ann Klutke</td>
<td><a href="mailto:klutke@tamu.edu">klutke@tamu.edu</a></td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEEN</td>
<td>Alan Palazzolo</td>
<td><a href="mailto:a-palazzolo@tamu.edu">a-palazzolo@tamu.edu</a></td>
<td>Chair 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUEN</td>
<td>Yassin Hassan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hassan@ne.tamu.edu">hassan@ne.tamu.edu</a></td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PETE</td>
<td>David Schechter</td>
<td><a href="mailto:david.schechter@pe.tamu.edu">david.schechter@pe.tamu.edu</a></td>
<td>2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX B

-----BYLAWS of the ENGINEERING FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL-----
November 1979 (Revised July 1989)

ARTICLE I – PURPOSE

Section 1: To generate and develop broad ideas for the improvement and ultimate development of the College of Engineering and to suggest policies that will enable the College of Engineering to better serve the educational needs of the people of Texas.

Section 2: To advise the Dean of Engineering on matters of basic importance to the Engineering Faculty as a body.

ARTICLE II – MEETINGS

Section 1: No business can be conducted without a quorum of 7 members present.

Section 2: New members will be provided with a copy of the current Bylaws at the first meeting that they attend.

Section 3: At the first meeting of each September, Rules of Procedure will be adopted by the council.

Section 4: The Council shall regularly meet monthly on a specified date September through May inclusive.

Section 5: Special meetings will be held at the call of the Chair or upon petition of three members of the Council.

Section 6: Minutes of the Council meeting shall be promptly delivered to all EFAC members.

Section 7: All meetings of the Council shall be open to all faculty members as visitors. A faculty member wishing to present a matter for consideration of the Council shall do so through the Council Chair or their Departmental Representative.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERS

Section 1: The Council shall consist of one member from each academic department in the College of Engineering including one member from the Agricultural Engineering Department. Administrative officers are ineligible for membership on the Council.

Section 2: Members shall serve a term of three years. One third of the members’ term on the Council will expire each year.
Section 3: The current Departmental Representative shall hold the election of each Departmental Representative through a vote of all department faculty and administration. Any one member of the Department in which the election is being held may request oversight of the election by the Council. In the event of such a request, the Council as a whole will determine the procedure for the election.

Section 4: Newly elected members shall take office at the first meeting in May.

Section 5: Council members unable to attend shall send a substitute to act in their place.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

Section 1: The Officers of the Engineering Faculty Advisory Council shall be a chair, a Vice-Chair, and a Secretary. Each shall be elected for a one-year term.

Section 2: A member of the Council must have completed one year on the Council before being eligible to serve as an officer of the council.

Section 3: If for any reason the Office of Chair shall become vacant, the Vice-Chair shall succeed to this office. If a vacancy occurs in any other office a member duly elected by the Council shall fill it.

ARTICLE V – VOTING

Section 1: Determination of the method of voting on matters presented to the Council shall be at the discretion of the Chair, unless a member of the Council requests a secret ballot.

Section 2: A simple majority vote of the members in attendance, provided that a quorum is present, shall be required to approve an ITEM FOR INVESTIGATION by the Council.

Section 3: A TWO-THIRDS majority vote of the members in attendance, provided that a quorum is present, shall be required to establish approval of the FINAL RECOMMENDATION OF THE COUNCIL on any item.

ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES

Section 1: There shall be no standing committee on the Engineering Faculty Advisory Council.

Section 2: Special committees shall be appointed and instructed by the Chair as needed.

Section 3: With the authorization of the majority of the Council, the chair may appoint faculty members not serving on the Council to special committees with specific charges.
ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS

Section 1: The Rules of Procedure may be suspended by a three-fourths majority vote.

Section 2: These by-laws may be amended or repealed by a two-thirds majority vote of the members in attendance.

Section 3: Proposed alterations, amendments or repeals shall first be read at a regular meeting of the Council and voted upon at the next meeting of the Council.
APPENDIX C

Agenda and Minutes Procedures

From Hope Mireles 01 July 2009

Important Things to Remember

- Call for Agenda Items – Send email out to all EFAC members at least 2 weeks prior to next meeting. Include a deadline in your message for agenda items.

- Send Draft Agenda to Dean – Draft agenda needs to be emailed 1 week prior to meeting. Please send draft agenda to Hope Mireles. Also, copy Karen Barfield & Deena Wallace.

- Minutes – After meeting, minutes will be drafted by Deena Wallace and sent to the Chair. The Chair will then share them with all members and ask for comments. Any comments or changes need to be sent to Deena Wallace and she will make sure they get reviewed by the Dean. Once these minutes are approved and finalized by the Dean, they will be posted on EPIK. When posted, they can be distributed to anyone. But, until that happens, they are still in draft form and they shouldn’t be distributed outside the EFAC members.

- Meeting Minutes are accessible

  Epik Login -> Vice Chancellor for Engineering -> Minutes from Meetings -> EFAC

- Confirm meeting dates/changes to Dr. Bennett’s schedule – ex: travel schedules, TAMU holidays or Board of Regents meetings.

- Past chairs – Lessard, Jennings, Maxwell, Schechter
### APPENDIX D

**Attendance List For EFAC Monthly Meeting on**

**Friday  23 October  2009**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dept.</th>
<th>Representative</th>
<th>Signature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AERO</td>
<td>Adonios N. Karpetis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMEN</td>
<td>John Criscione</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAEN</td>
<td>Rosana G. Moreira</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEN</td>
<td>Carl Laird</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPSC</td>
<td>Nancy Amato</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVEN</td>
<td>Mark Burris</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECEN</td>
<td>Laszlo Kish</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETID</td>
<td>Jorge Alvarado</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISEN</td>
<td>Georgia Ann Klutke</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEEN</td>
<td>Alan Palazzolo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUEN</td>
<td>Yassin Hassan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PETE</td>
<td>David Schechter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Alternates**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dept.</th>
<th>Representative</th>
<th>Signature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX E

FINAL MINUTES
Engineering Faculty Advisory Council
September 18, 2009 Meeting

Minutes

Members Present: Alan Palazzolo (Chair) – MEEN; Adonios Karpetis – AERO; Rosana Moreira – BAEN; Roland Kaunas (substitute for John Criscione) – BMEN; Carl Laird – CHEN; Nancy Amato – CSCE; Mark Burris – CVEN; Laszlo Kish – ECEN; Michael Johnson (substitute for Jorge Avarado) – ETID; Georgia Ann Klutke – ISEN; Yassin Hassan – NUEN; David Schechter – PETE

Members Absent: John Criscione – BMEN; Jorge Avarado – ETID

Also Present: Kem Bennett, N.K. Anand, Deena Wallace, Marilyn Martell

Item #3 & 4 on the agenda:

(3) Marilyn Martell, Assistant Vice Chancellor
    * Status of EFAC Website
    * Status of Seminar Announcements for COE

(4) Topic: Other Ideas for the EFAC Website
    From: Alan Palazzolo

Some other ways the EFAC website may be beneficial to the faculty includes:
- Announcing departmental seminars to faculty throughout the COE
- “Advertising” new or very specialized courses to faculty throughout the COE to enhance enrollment and the probability of the course meeting enrollment requirements.
- “Advertising” internal COE proposal opportunities of industrial consortia or centers such as Environmentally Friendly Drilling Program - David Burnett (PETE), Crisman Institute – Steve Holditch (PETE), American Association of Railroads – Gary Fry (CVEN), Smart Vehicle Concept Center – Jim Boyd (AERO), Turbomachinery Research Consortium – Dara Childs (MEEN)
- Equipment Loan/Rental Exchange
- Link to TEES Faculty Expertise Data Base

Marilyn Martell showed the committee the new EFAC website (engineering.tamu.edu/EFAC). The members were pleased with the website. The suggestion was made to add the member’s website link and Marilyn said that could easily be done. Dr. Amato asked who maintains the website and Marilyn said that it was her understanding that the EFAC Chair would update the website. She said it should only take minutes and then update the membership list annually.
Dr. Palazzolo asked if EFAC thought the website could be used for other purposes, such as advertising specialized courses, advertising local consortia, and equipment loan/rental.

Marilyn then discussed the weekly email containing the calendar of upcoming departmental events. She passed out the analysis of the emails that had been sent out, showing the number of emails sent and opened, and the number of faculty who unsubscribed. She said that the calendar on the EFAC website could make the email calendar easier to put together.

Dr. Amato said that last week’s email had two problems, but nowhere identified in the email to send notice of the problems. Marilyn will add a notice provision to send problems to the EFAC Chair.

Marilyn said that Engineering Communications had to go out and find events to include in the email; only five departments have provided information. She stressed that they need support is this is to be an EFAC sponsored email.

Item #5 on the agenda:

(5) Topic: Modification of TEES IDC Split (PLEASE SEE APPENDIX E)
   From Nancy M. Amato, Computer Science and Engineering

The TEES IDC split was modified on August 24 (see attached memo) so that TEES would keep 30% instead of 25% and the department (or other unit) share was reduced from 59% to 54%; the PI share was left alone at 16%. The memo indicates that TEES is using this money for shared facilities. There are several questions/issues that arise:

- Can you elaborate on the shared facilities for which this would be used. Is it true that some of these funds may be needed to cover the TEES obligation for TIGM or NCTM?

- Does this apply only to grants submitted after Sept 1, 2009 or is it retroactive?

- This will obviously be a major hardship to the departments who relied on these funds for their operating budgets. Are there any mechanisms by which departments could negotiate to keep their traditional share of the IDC?

Dr. Bennett said that there had been a subsequent clarification memo that had been sent to the department and division heads. The 5% to be retained by TEES administration is not related to the NCTM. It will be used for shared services and laboratories, such as the Characterization Lab, Microscopy Center, clean room, etc. The 5% will bring in approximately $1M per year, with no one department being overly burdened. We have to support shared services. There has been an increase in the number of requests for funds coming in. We are also working to share labs and equipment with the VPR’s Office, which each providing funding for the base. Efforts to get the departments to pay for the shared services have been unsuccessful. Administration has been paying so the decision was made to retain 5% so these costs could be paid.
Dr. Klutke asked why the decision was to use a 5% across the board regardless of use of shared services. Dr. Bennett said that doing it based on use would require constant monitoring and adjustment.

Dr. Bennett said that they considered reducing the PI portion, but decided against it. The Department Heads wanted to reduce the PI portion. However, the departments were not paying, so the 5% was taken from the departments.

Dr. Bennett also emphasized that all of the 25% retained in the central pool goes back to the departments. All is reinvested into research, the departments, and faculty.

Item #6 on the agenda:

(6) Topic: Proposed COE Teaching Release Policy for Family Care (PLEASE SEE APP. F)
From: Nancy M. Amato, Computer Science and Engineering

Last year, the EFAC discussed the issue of temporary duty reassignment for faculty who need to care for family members. It was mentioned that treatment was often inconsistent across departments and that both faculty members and department heads were unsure of what may or may not be appropriate. Dean Bennett requested that a policy be drafted for his consideration. Over the summer, a group of senior women in the college have drafted the attached proposal for a Teaching Release Policy. They would like to submit it to the EFAC and to Dean Bennett for their consideration and comment.

Dr. Amato said that the teaching release policy grew out of EFAC discussion last year regarding temporary duty reassignment for faculty who need to care for family members. Dr. Bennett had suggested that EFAC propose some guidelines for the College. Some women faculty got together over the summer and decided to focus on teaching release rather than all duties. A copy of the proposed policy is attached to the agenda as appendix F.

Dr. Hassan asked what other colleges do. Dr. Amato said that she didn’t know. She said that the College of Education may have a policy, but it is not the norm for colleges to have a policy.

Dr. Bennett said that he was concerned that the proposal is a “one size fits all.” He said that there needs to be a range of possibilities. He said that the proposal seems to be a workload reduction policy rather than one for workload flexibility. Dr. Bennett also said that he thought the proposal would be for guidelines rather than a hard policy, giving flexibility. He said that we can’t just reduce workload. There are legal requirements for full-time work, as well as faculty workload requirements.

Dr. Bennett said that when EFAC is satisfied with proposed guidelines, he will bring them forward for faculty review, Department Head Council, etc. He said that this is an important issue and he would like to see the College of Engineering come forward with some guidelines.

Dr. Anand asked if the guidelines should apply only to T/TT faculty or also include lecturers. Dr. Bennett said that University “faculty” includes lecturers. He also said that EFAC should be cognizant of only including teaching, rather than all duties. People send their children to college to learn and there could be a negative perception of faculty who are wanting to reduce their teaching responsibilities. Dr.
Burris also pointed out that he thought EFAC would be creating guidelines, not a policy that was automatic.

Dr. Laird also wants to know what other campuses are doing.

When EFAC is comfortable with a document, Dr. Bennett will have a legal review done and submit it to the Department Heads for review. Dr. Klutke suggested establishing a subcommittee to work on it. Dr. Palazzolo said that he will send an email to council members looking for volunteers to serve. Dr. Bennett suggested that the subcommittee look at what other public institutions are doing; private institutions do not have the same limitations as publics.

Item #7 on the agenda:

(7) Topic: New Building Status  
From: Richard M. Feldman through Georgia-Ann Klutke, Industrial and Systems Engineering

It would be nice to have an update on the new building. The last report that we had from the Dean was that if additional funds were obtained by some deadline (I think it was in March), the building would be completed but if additional funds were not obtained, then prices would escalate and some of the building would not be completed. Thus, if the update on the building does not include the mention of how much is to be completed, perhaps you could ask whether or not additional funds were obtained for completing the building.

Dr. Bennett said that last year the estimated cost of the building was ~$120M. We had a budget of only $104M, so we would have to shell 50% of the building. However, the economic downturn helped us. Construction bids came in lower than expected and we were able to lock in the cost of the building. Now we are able to complete 100% of the building within the original budget, plus have $8M left over for equipment and matching funds. Dr. Bennett also said that we are close to getting a naming opportunity which will give an additional $10M. The name is currently the “Emerging Technologies Building”. The University has agreed to shift away from using “Economic Development.”

Dr. Bennett said that Vaughn Construction has done an excellent job and Perkins+Will architects have been great to work with.

Item #8 on the agenda:

(8) Topic: COMPASS and Course Prerequisites  
From: Jorge Alvarado, Engineering Technology and Industrial Distribution

We would like to know why the new student information system (COMPASS) cannot be used at this point to make sure (automatically) that students have the right prerequisites for the courses they are currently enrolled in. Currently, faculty members and/or the corresponding advising office personnel have to check each student record one at a time.
Deena Wallace obtained a response to this question from Enterprise Information Systems at the University, and prerequisite checks are not a functionality that has been explored yet. Once Compass is fully live and operational, the project team will continue to explore the various capabilities that the software has to offer.

Dr. Burris said that in the next couple of weeks a meeting will be held with EIS to discuss Compass and its capabilities.

Item #9 on the agenda:

(9) **Topic:** Permanent Leadership Positions in COE  
**From:** Jorge Alvarado, Engineering Technology and Industrial Distribution

*Could the Dean provide an update on his plans to fill permanently some of the leadership positions in the College of Engineering?*

Dr. Bennett said that Dr. Anand is serving as Interim Executive Associate Dean only while Dr. Niedzwecki is serving as Interim Department Head in Civil Engineering. Dr. Niedzwecki will return to the position of Executive Associate Dean when a new CVEN Department Head is hired, and Dr. Anand will return to Associate Dean for Research.

Dr. Bennett announced that Dr. Theresa Maldonado will return to the College of Engineering. She will serve as Director of the new Energy Engineering Institute and will also serve as Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives. He hopes to have her transition completed in October.

Item #10 on the agenda:

(10) **Topic:** TAMU Lead PI Positions on QNRF Proposals Halted  
**From:** Alan Palazzolo, Mechanical Engineering

*Jim Holste’s memo barring TAMU faculty from holding Lead PI positions (LPI) on QNRF Round 3 proposals and limiting TAMUQ faculty to a maximum, of 2 LPI positions states that saturation of their faculty and facilities is the reason for the new policy. Many of the TAMUQ ME faculty have not received a QNRF award yet so it is unlikely that they are saturated with QNRF research. This new policy may have an effect of turning away QNRF funding from TAMU faculty.*

Dr. Bennett said that there has been a lot of concern over this issue. He has problems with it, but it is the policy at TAMUQ. He said that it is a myth that they have a lot of extra room at TAMUQ. They do have a space problem. Their successful research so far takes a lot of space. A further complication is that we still don’t have a research infrastructure agreement; TAMUQ needs the funds to develop the research infrastructure.

Dr. Anand added that the administration of QNRF projects is very difficult and TAMUQ does not have the manpower.
Dr. Bennett said that Dr. Weichold had reasons why he did what he did, but his memo has resulted in a lot of attention here at TAMU. At this point, he is not sure what will happen.

Item #11 on the agenda:

(11) **Topic: Startup Fund Carryover**  
    From: Costas Georghiades through Laszlo Kish

Startup funds (provided by TEES) are given for 3 years and are expected to be used in that time. In the past, faculty that did not spend all their funds in the 3 year window were automatically allowed to use the funds after the 3 year window. The question is whether there is a new policy in place regarding extending the 3 year window.

Dr. Bennett said that faculty are able to use start-up funds beyond 3 years if the funds have not spent. However, it is not automatic; the faculty member has to make a request.

Meeting Adjourned.

Next Meeting: October 23, 2009