

**Industrial Engineering, University of Washington**  
**Visiting Committee Meeting**

December 10, 1999

Industry Representatives: Steve Coe, Dale Daniels, Shelley Fukui, Greg Grimes, Brian Kuttner, Mark McKay, Stephen Snelling.

IE Representatives: DJ Miller, Kellus Stone, Tony Woo.

Steve Snelling distributed the web address for UW President McCormick's "Invitation to Participate in a Conversation About the Future" ([www.washington.edu/change](http://www.washington.edu/change)). The site contains the letter McCormick discussed on Visiting Committee Day in October, an on-line questionnaire and a calendar of upcoming events. There are several opportunities for Visiting Committee members to participate in the conversation.

Dale Daniels of Textronix, told Acting Director Tony Woo about what he looks for when interviewing engineering candidates. Dale suggested that IE put more emphasis on having students graduate with some electronic drawing skills - at least AutoCAD and maybe some other CAD experience as well. Database knowledge or manipulation of data would also be useful. Dale said he has been comparing UW IE graduates to Oregon State University IE graduates and found the OSU students, particularly those that had been Co-op students, were better candidates to join his company. Dale said three one-hour classes would make students proficient in AutoCAD.

Steve Snelling added that the Process Engineering group at Boeing would like to see new graduates (regardless of school), come in with better report writing skills. For many UW IE graduates the Senior Design project is their one big formal writing assignment - and usually only 1 or 2 members of the team do most of the writing. Other problems Steve has encountered is new IE's coming up with solutions before they've fully explored the problem and a lack of knowledge about how to interview for information.

A packet of information was distributed to each member. Members not in attendance will be sent the handouts by mail. The group reviewed IE's Strategic Plan goals and short-term action plan.

There was discussion about IE's goal to "Increase the quality & quantity of research in IE disciplines". It was asked if the goal is to increase this or maintain the same level - since the research handout showed this as a current strength for the IE department. Tony Woo said IE wants to maintain research at the same quantity (or slightly higher) but get more distribution of the grants (currently one large research grant makes up about 70% of the total research dollars).

The goal of "Educate successful graduates" was discussed from the point of view of satisfying the ABET 2000 criteria and from satisfying industries requirements. Mark McKay suggested

that it would be useful to document the desired skills an IE graduate should possess, where in the flow chart do these points appear in the curriculum and what are the resources available to make this happen. (Mark has graciously agreed to facilitate a discussion on these issues at a Winter Quarter IE faculty meeting). The issue of how to motivate students was discussed at length, along with the related topic of how best to get practicing IEs experience into the classroom. Steve Coe suggested integrating the work of Boeing master's students into undergraduate classes. They have a lot of experience in project management and report writing.

The goal of "Integrate/link educational programs with research activities" was discussed. Board members asked how this is done now with undergraduates and how many students are involved. Only a small percentage of undergraduate students currently participate in faculty research activities and do so for independent study credit.

Suggestions from this and past meetings were listed on a flip chart. After a lot of discussion, it became a list of action items for the Visiting Committee to focus on in smaller volunteer teams.

- ABET - VC discussion Winter Quarter
- Benchmarking - Postpone for now
- Industry Contacts/Survey – Rich Hansen (not in attendance, will be asked to work on this)
- Alumni Survey on the WEB - Kellus Stone, DJ Miller
- Alumni Outreach/Events - Shelley Fukui, Bill Kluck (not in attendance, will be asked to work on this)  
Newsletter - Kellus Stone
- Coop/Intern - Greg Grimes, Steve Coe, Steve Snelling
- Undergraduate Research Involvement - Mark McKay
- Spring Recognition Banquet for students
- Class Support (industry visits) - Dale Daniels, Steve Snelling, Greg, Grimes, it was suggested we tap the into the Boeing MA students as experts.
- Student Mentoring  
Mock Interviews - Steve Snelling, Dale Daniels  
INDE 237 – Review of the course – Mark McKay  
Maybe make the mock interviews a requirement.  
Spend one day on site. What about IE Day where each company hosts five IE students?
- Web links to companies - Dale Daniels, Steve Snelling.  
What IE's at the company do  
Interview Questions  
Skills required

Two agenda items for the Winter Quarter meeting of the committee include ABET 2000 and the election of a committee chair.