

Visiting Committee Notes June 4, 1999

Attendance: Kal Kapur, Richard Hansen, Dale Daniels, Zelda Zabinsky, Steve Coe, Greg Grimes, Jay Berkley, Steve Snelling, Rob Smith, Cindy Atman.

Kal gave a report on the status of the program, the strategic plan.

Steve Coe wanted to know what would encourage student to do foreign exchange programs and co-ops. OSU has a good co-op program that is focused on IE and ME. Is there placement support for undergraduates? Do the faculty participate in placing students. The local IE chapter has leads for students.

General question: where does IE need faculty. Most members mentioned simulation.

IE needs more alliances such as those with Pacific Rim and European universities. The Rhinehold ? Foundation has a built in exchange for students.

Strategic plan – Steve Snelling said kudos to the faculty and staff. What is IE's ranking right now? USA Today? He said internationally he believes IE is one of the first programs funded at universities.

Greg Grimes recently attended an IE conference in which there were a number of recruiters – academic, industry, consultants. There was a competition for students. Where was UW? We need to write IE and ask for the qualifications for the telfen (?) competition. IE needs to focus on marketing. How do we get students into the program. High school, honor students, what about the MITE program.

There is a concern about whether the curriculum gives students the skills they need to pass the PE licensing test.

Steve Snelling expressed concern about the need to pick a focus for the program. There are so many things that need to be addressed. How can you target in a way and see tangible results (through metrics). There needs to be more benchmarking with other universities such as Virginia Tech (where Steve went).

Bill Kluck talked about the need to improve faculty teaching skills. It might be good to have someone from industry review the examples being used in class to make sure they are current. Members of the board stated they would be happy to come and speak to classes.

Bill and Steve also talked about how to make topics more real to students so they aren't surprised when they get into a job. Do students in the senior design course get enough time on site with industry reps. There was a suggestion some reps meet with Rob in January to discuss the projects course. IIE might be willing to contribute prize money to the effort.

Rich Hansen who is also in IE discussed the importance of mentorship. How can they motivate students to be more active in IIE. Would it help if they looked at lowering dues. Every 2nd Wednesday IE has a factory tour that students could attend.

Cindy Atman talked about the importance of input from industry in addressing the issues raised by ABET.

Dale Daniels said Tektronix is just beginning to recruit from UW. He talked about the co-op at OSU. There is a 25 company consortium. There is a process for routing students through the participating companies. Companies pay an annual fee to participate. Companies take turns getting their first choice of students. Students serve two six month internships at different companies. The experience has to be diverse. Montana and Colorado State also have strong co-ops.

Richard Hansen is an industry rep to ABET 2000. He said industry is pushing for a focus on more real world problems.

There was discussion about the structure of the VC. The group wanted broad representation including service industries, hospital, retail, banking and nonprofit. There may need to be subcommittees for different areas of interest. Steve Snelling in particular is interested in benchmarking. Other interests include alumni/industrial contacts and fundraising. There was a suggestion that people who donate over a certain amount of money or on a regular basis receive a gift. There needs to be more partnership between engineering and business. Maybe certain faculty would be willing to teach modules, etc. for industry. General questions were raised about the structure of the committee, how often it should meet, etc.

There needs to be an alumni survey to see how IE is doing. Members reported both positive and negative experiences in the program.

Committee members would welcome questionnaires from the program seeking their opinions on various issues.