Minutes from the Manufacturing Engineering Advisory Board Meeting  
December 14, 2007


Absent: Cory Cauwels, Matt Hafele, Larry Henderson, Timothy Hughes, John Pearson, Rajiv Asthana, John Dzissah, Robert Feirn, Pete Heimdahl, Mark Larchez, Bob Meyer, Carol Mooney, Don Olson, Marty Ondrus, Jerry Roiter, Eileen Zito.

(Bold indicates professional in the field)

1. Minutes from the May 11, 2007 advisory board meeting were approved as distributed. (Fly/Vytlacil)

2. Program Update

   There are 184 students in the program. Thirteen are graduating tomorrow.

3. Off-road Wheelchair Group – Tom Lacksonen

   Tom Lacksonen’s Lean Manufacturing class has been working with industrial engineering students at Baskent University in Ankara Turkey on an all terrain wheelchair project. Students worked on the design process – review of materials, capacity analysis, defined departments, area analysis, block layout and a detailed layout. Students are going to visit Kifas Manufacturing in January to finalize and implement the plant layout. The students received a research grant and will be presenting what they learned on research day and also to student organizations.

4. Recruitment Efforts

   36 accepted freshmen. The program received a 3 year extension from ABET as part of the 6 year cycle. The engineering and technology career days have been very successful – students have been here from Wisconsin and Minnesota. We have attended the Minnesota Career Fair and continue to visit high schools. We have approval to fill two new positions in electrical/computer engineering and three new positions in polymer/plastics engineering. Both will become ABET accredited programs.

   The program numbers are improving but some ideas were discussed on how to do a better job marketing the program to the public. Several suggestions were to highlight: the capstone projects, the hands on aspect of the projects, the contact working with industry, the SAE baja, the smaller class size and including capstone projects on campus tours. The issue seems to be getting the students here – once here seem to be sold on Stout. The VICA (Skills USA) program
and Olympiad of the Mind seem to be good resources as well as promoting the STEPS program. It was suggested that use of a mascot might be considered. More information needs to be available on line, DVD and video. Scott Springer said the engineering technology co-op students are required to go back to their high school and make a presentation about their co-op experience. We could coordinate the manufacturing engineering and engineering technology programs.

5. FIRST Lego League – Danny Bee

The FIRST Lego League regional tournament was held at Stout in November. Kids from 9-14 years old are involved in problem solving, research and presenting their projects as well as the competition. We hope this will be a good long term recruiting strategy. Stout has the potential to host the state FLL event (48 teams attended this year).

6. NWTC/UW-GB/UW-Stout Manufacturing Engineering Partnership – Rich Rothaupt

We are looking at what Stout should offer and what other courses could be offered some where else or by distance education. Hope to start in the fall 08 and have at least one person at Green Bay to do advisement and one other to teach. Rich distributed a copy of the transfer articulation and the curriculum flow chart. Concern was expressed on the difference in software used in CAD classes that get transferred in.

7. Advisory Committee Assistance (Campaign)

8. M.S. Program Update – Danny Bee

Pete Heimdahl started the program last year. We will have 12-13 students taking class this semester. Danny distributed and reviewed the program plan. The program has evolved in to on line delivery due to limited resources. All students will pay the same tuition. The lean manufacturing seminar series is done by NWMOC. We could also partner with industry. It is best if this series can be done face-to-face. Danny is working with Platteville to use their courses in automation and control. We are also targeting industry for recommended key areas to build specializations in. The program will not be ABET accredited to allow more flexibility.

Breakout sessions were held to discuss the M.S. program (You’ve seen the M.S. program, now what do you think?) Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats, marketing ideas.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Friday, May 9.

It was announced that Fulton Holtby passed away. He was a great supporter of the manufacturing engineering program.