



February 9, 2007

Dear Colleagues:

The purpose of this e-mail is to communicate major activities planned for this spring. The College of Engineering is beginning a new Distinguished Lecture Series this semester. Dr. William Wulf, the President of the National Academy of Engineering, will present the inaugural **Distinguished Lecture at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 21**. Dr. Wulf will discuss changes needed in engineering education. We also intend to engage the creativity of the COE faculty and staff in a **mid-February call for proposals** focused on transforming undergraduate education in the CoE. Proposals will be due by early March (exact date to be determined), with final award decisions made by early May. Additional details will be forthcoming regarding these and other initiatives.

Over the past several years, the College of Engineering has seen several significant changes and updates to the undergraduate program, thanks to the hard work of multiple groups within the college. The Academic Program, Curriculum, and Regulations Committee (APCRC) negotiated the adoption of the General College Requirements (a.k.a. "first-year curriculum"), which includes the requirement that all incoming first-year students take an Introduction to Engineering course. The Academic Planning Council (APC) approved two new certificates (Biology in Engineering and International Engineering) as a way to encourage interdisciplinary preparation, a priority noted by the Operating Committee and the Shared Vision Task Force. In addition to the work of such formal committees, countless smaller changes and experiments have been undertaken by individual members of the faculty and academic staff. This willingness to explore new ways to help our students learn has been, and will continue to be, essential to providing a contemporary engineering education.

To foster continued discussion and interaction, the CoE formed the 2010 Task Force following a National Academy of Engineering workshop in July of 2005. The Task Force has met weekly to discuss ways to create the CoE of the future. The Task Force has sought input from the CoE community by hosting two college-wide meetings and four smaller focus group meetings, which provided invaluable perspectives and ideas. More recently, the Task Force formed the CoE 2010 Roundtable – a group of two dozen members of the CoE (listed below) charged to "understand the changing environment for higher education and its implications for the College of Engineering and **develop an action plan** that includes changes in course curriculum and delivery to meet the new challenges in undergraduate education." The Roundtable group has met three times, including a 6-hour retreat in January, and has developed elements of a short-term and long-term plan for transforming undergraduate education, details of which will be posted on the CoE 2010 website in the coming days ([www.engr.wisc.edu/2010](http://www.engr.wisc.edu/2010)).

The members of the 2010 Task Force remain committed to serving as the catalyst for continued examination and improvement of the college, but our small group cannot act alone. To meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century will require the assistance, input, and support of the entire CoE community. If you have suggestions or additional ideas, please contact me or Steve Cramer.

Sincerely,

*Paul S. Peercy*

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Dean

Members of the CoE 2010 Roundtable:

Rob Radwin  
Mike Corradini  
Mike Graham  
Phil O'Leary  
Jeff Russell  
Parmesh Ramanathan  
Harry Steudel  
Neil Duffie  
Sue Babcock  
Amy Wendt  
Jay Martin  
Sarah Pfatteicher  
Paul Percy  
Steve Cramer  
Don Woolston  
Steve Clark  
Sandy Arnn  
Larua Grossenbacher  
Dan Klingenberg  
John Booske  
Nicole Rybeck  
John Nelson  
Mike Morrow