

ETCS Student Forum

November 3, 2008

Attendance: 26 ETCS students, Gerard Volland, Don Mueller, Peter Ng, Jihad Albayyari, Gary Steffen

Meeting was moderated by Dean Volland and Brad McNair (CE student)

Introductions

Topics as posed by the students. Responses are by faculty and students.

1. Availability of summer classes?
 - Not as numerous as in the past. Administration policy wants efficient offerings.
 - Gen Ed courses are an option.
 - It is possible to offer almost any class if we can get a number (at least 10) of committed students. It has been done in the past with math classes.
2. Need study areas for engineering students?
 - Possibility to post room availability? Students could use empty classrooms.
 - Space is an issue in the building. Administrators are looking to reconfigure the lobby.
 - Space may open up in the future across the campus, i.e. old physical plant new building across the street.
 - Perhaps eliminate computer labs with the availability of laptops and software.
 - Dean Volland would like to see a much-needed addition to the ETCS Building.
3. What would be done with a new building?
 - Research labs, we have many undergraduate programs, classrooms, new updated labs with donations from industry.
 - Student Success Center has potential to make this a more personable environment. This could take a larger “role.”
 - Could you ask student (freshmen) to redesign lobby? We have done that in the past. It might be a good idea to do this in the future.
4. Computer labs with oscilloscopes are empty. Could more software be added to computers in ET 305 and 307?
 - Expensive equipment and software are in labs; they are not open labs. If computer availability becomes an issue we can open them.
 - The computers in all labs are configured similarly.
5. Homework assigned multiple times a week is a problem for working students and students with other complicated schedules.

- More specifically, homework assigned Monday then due Wednesday. This is difficult for people working.
 - Homework policy cannot be dictated.
 - A homework schedule is a good suggestion, and most faculty will probably take that into account.
6. Student organizations are important. Student organizations need help. Need student servers for students to host web pages.
- We need help with website development.
 - Try to use IPFW ITS as first reference. The departments do not want to get into the business of operating more computer servers. This drains resources from departments. Plus, it is ITS job to provide this for students.
 - ieee.ipfw@gmail.com
7. We need furniture for the student org room. Students need lockers or storage space.
- Departments are doing their best to support student groups.
 - Student orgs have room. Let's see how that is used.
 - Almost every student drives. Perhaps cars could be used to store books between classes.
8. We still use old school technology. Why don't we use ebooks?
- Ebooks are not proven technology. This would greatly limit the choices that faculty have.
9. Require student to purchase laptops. Could result in deals for students.
- Many students already have laptops.
 - It would take a lot to require students to purchase a laptop. We would have to decide on a common platform and software. We take pride in having computer labs open to student on weekends in ETCS Building and 24-hour access on campus.
10. Upgrade technology with additional fees.
- There was a discussion about how technology fees are spent on campus. Students were advised to negotiate with administration to get these fees to use in ETCS labs.