

Engineering Students' Forum  
Sponsored by the NSBE student chapter  
12 March, 2007 – Noon to 1 pm in ET 115

**Present:**

- *Dr. Gerard Voland* – Dean of the School of Engineering, Technology, and Computer Science
- *Dr. Carlos Pomalaza-Ráez* – Chair of the Department of Engineering
- Around 10 engineering and engineering technology students

**Summary**

Dr. Ráez thanked the NSBE student chapter and in particular Mr. Landry Nzudie for making the arrangements for this forum as well for making sure that the pizza and drinks arrive on time. Dr. Ráez also thanked all the students for their participation in past forums. Dr. Ráez still cannot provide feedback regarding students' concerns with the Co-op office. These concerns were raised by students in the spring 2006 forum. The Co-op office was asked to provide a response but so far they have not responded. Dr. Ráez will again contact the Co-Op office about this matter.

The following issues were brought forward by the students:

- **Continuing concerns about the way the Co-Op office conducts its business**

Several students stated that often there were mismatches between what the Co-Op office offered them and their work experience or engineering major.

*Dr. Ráez is going to contact again the Co-Op office about this and past concerns.*

- **Attendance policy for the EE students**

A student wanted to know what the attendance policy for the EE program is, since it appears that there is no common policy.

*Dr. Ráez stated that attendance policy is left to each individual instructor. In general instructors expect students to attend most of the lectures; how they enforce their policy is at their discretion. However it is expected that the attendance policy be clearly explained in the course syllabus.*

- **Drop boxes**

There was a suggestion to have drop boxes in the building where students can leave comments and suggestions at any time.

*Dr. Voland and Dr. Ráez will make inquiries and arrangements for having suggestion boxes placed in the building. Both agree that it is a good, idea worthy of implementation.*

- **Online full description of courses**

Students were frustrated when attempting to locate full descriptions of courses online. The short descriptions available on the IPFW website do not have enough information to facilitate making proper choices of technical electives.

*Dr. Ráez mentioned that the department is very aware of this problem and is currently working on having up-to-date ABET type descriptions of all the engineering courses, which will be then available on the department website. This process will take some time because many courses have experienced changes in content since the last visit by ABET. Currently the department is updating the description of those courses that are scheduled for evaluation of their outcomes at the end of the semester.*

- **Security issue with the login procedure of the ETCS lab computers**

Students feel that currently it is very easy to guess the password of any account since often it boils down to just guessing 2 numbers as the rest of the password information is very easy to obtain.

*Dr. Ráez will bring this issue to Mr. Pressler, the manager of the ETCS computer network.*

- **Two year degree program versus four year degree program**

An engineering technology student attending the meeting requested an explanation why all the other ETCS departments have a two year associate degree but not the department of engineering.

*Dr. Ráez gave a brief explanation of why it is impossible to have a “two year engineering degree” of any type.*

- **Dual degrees**

Some students wanted to know more about the dual computer engineering – electrical engineering degree as well as the “rumored” physics – electrical engineering degree.

*A student in the audience, who has a double major in CmpE and EE, explained that having both degrees has given him a larger pool of job possibilities and offers and highly recommends it. Dr. Ráez mentioned that the CmpE-EE dual degree has been available for at least two years and that several students are currently following this program. More information about this dual degree is available online.*

*Dr. Ráez was surprised that the potential dual Physics-Electrical Engineering degree was already known by the students. The proposal for this degree is currently being considered by the School of Arts and Sciences. It has been approved by the Department of Physics and the Department of Engineering. Several students showed interest in this new dual degree.*