Program Performance Review: Culmination Meeting Memo
Computer Engineering, B.S. Program

The 2014-2015 Program Performance Review (PPR) process for the B.S. Program in Computer Engineering concluded with a culmination meeting on November 6, 2015.

The program submitted ABET reaccreditation materials in lieu of the PPR documents. At the meeting, the program was congratulated for completing the reaccreditation process. The program was commended for the significant progress made in the past several years, which includes:

1. The program has used data to make changes to admission and advisement policies leading to better retention rates, specifically for first-generation college students.

2. The program has strong ties to industry, resulting in curricular feedback and internships and employment of the students.

The major recommendations and concerns raised through the reaccreditation process were discussed. Suggestions on how to address them were provided:

1. Space issue:

   - The program coordinator raised that space is an issue for program growth. Currently, CE has approximately 600 students (400 undergraduate, 200 graduate). The number of seniors who take the senior design course is on the rise, which will require more lab space.
   - The program has a very vibrant student participation in student clubs. These students' activities need space.
   - The growth of the program requires new faculty, but there is no office space available for newly hired faculty members.
   - The current faculty are extremely productive in terms of research, but more research involves more students, and more students require more space.
   - The college echoed the concern, stating that CE is the only ECS program that is on "borrowed space". There is currently only 1 classroom and 1 lab that truly belongs to CE. The growth of CE will require more space.
   - The Deputy Provost suggested rethinking the senior design course to find creative solutions to accommodate increasing enrollment.
   - The AVP-AP asked the program to have a conversation about how large the program wants to be, and be able to sustain.
   - The college has organized a space committee to develop recommendations to alleviate the space crisis. It will also have a serious conversation about undergraduate enrollment to determine the optimal size of the degree programs.
   - The Deputy Provost also mentioned that the new outcomes-based funding model may significantly help small programs, such as CE, in that funding is not 100% based on FTES.

2. Curriculum issue:

    -   The program faculty stated that some courses have large class size, e.g. 81 students in one section, or 215 students over 3 sections. This is difficult for faculty to deliver high quality instruction.
    -   The program is currently exploring potential curriculum changes, e.g. changing prerequisites, to allow for more flexibility in student course selections. The program is also working to streamline some sophomore courses and remove bottleneck courses.

3. CE and EE:

    -   The Deputy Provost asked the program and the college whether there is the possibility to merge CE and EE.
    -   The Dean stated that this is not the right time, as faculty in the two programs/departments are at different professional stages. This is a possibility to explore a few years from now.
    -   The CE program is very productive and attracts many students. It should be allowed to grow and stabilize before considering significant changes.