

Vitalization Work Group 8
Meeting Minutes 3/3/17, 2:00pm
2116 Blair Hall

Members present: Britto Nathan (Acting Chair for meeting), Nora Small, Kelly Miller, Kimberly Kuspa, Samantha Boomgarden, and Amy Rosenstein

Dr. Nathan called the meeting to order.

He stated the agenda and discussion began on the timeline for the work group's report. Mrs. Miller noted a need to consider additional time to meet to complete the tasks. The group confirmed this a need but agreed to postpone the discussion so that the presenters could get started.

Presenters Dr. Zou and Dr. Brandt introduced a proposal for a new program in Electrical Engineering – a handout was provided and sent to Dr. Stowell who forwarded to workgroup members. These can also be found on the one-drive.

Dr. Zou explained:

New BS in electrical engineering: separate degree within physics

Rational was presented:

Why program –increase in STEM jobs nationwide, currently EIU offers Science, Technology, and Math (STM) but not engineering. It is a program most often asked about when prospective students come to campus. All regional schools around us have engineering programs. A stand-alone program would be supported.

Why electrical – because EIU already has sub-disciplines relative to an electrical engineering program (physics) in place. Enrollment by program shows large population at other schools in electrical engineering. U of I data for applications were 800 and only 558 admitted for electrical engineering. Some students accepted but did not attend due to cost or size. Data shows home base, non-residential, and international students are interested. The major results in graduates with high salaries.

Sample curriculum – only engineering applications would need to be added into existing coursework. Some additional (possible 5) courses could be added.

Current resources – facilities are in place, math and physics faculty could teach some upper level

Additional resources – need 1 faculty member with strong industrial experience and contacts with industry (essential to establish field experience). Would also need an ACF just due to CU load specific to physics.

Cost saving – no separate chair needed - physics lab facilities could be used with electrical engineering. Students pay lab fee...material cost not increased.

Dr. Small questioned: with other regionals having programs, what is the market like for jobs after graduation. Dr. Zou said there is an increase.

Mrs. Miller noted story of other places recruiting students from Illinois to out of state school.

Dr. Small asked if IBHE would need to give approval?
Dr. Zou said yes but ABET is more important.

Dr. Small asked if all faculty members are in agreement on this?
Dr. Zou said Yes, as there is no need to design different courses for physics. In math, the courses are already available.

Dr. Brandt noted that the new hire would not be needed for two years until upper level courses begin.

Dr. Nathan asked why this is just now being considered as it seems like a useful program?

Dr. Zou stated that she has always wanted to do it.

Dr. Brandt noted that when previously approached and asked how much it would cost to create an engineering program (comprehensive) it was thought to be millions of dollars, as it would include all areas of engineering. This is just a singular degree.

Dr. Nathan stated this was a great idea, especially to use the skills of faculty to the maximum. He noted that it is fantastic specific to the increase in prospective students. He encouraged Dr. Zou and Dr. Brandt to get students here and then retain them. He asked them to consider how to support students to stay in the program.

Mrs. Miller also answered but stating there is a beauty to the vision process as it allows everyone to consider different approaches to new programming.

Dr. Nathan stated a change to the program name would be an easy one.

Dr. Brandt stated that the retention issue will still be an issue as once here they may change their minds and move to other similar programs, but at least they would be here on campus.

Dr. Nathan stated that there are students who get pre-engineer coursework and then have to finish somewhere else. It would be nice for them to stay.

Mrs. Miller said students like it here. She asked about technology and if there is cross over with other faculty in other programs?

Dr. Zou explained that no, Applied Engineering Technology (which results in a salary closer to \$45,000) and engineering are different based on ABET criteria. Though, the program at EIU does have faculty with a civil and computer engineer degrees.

Dr. Nathan thanked them for presenting.

The committee took a brief few minutes to discuss the future meetings and need as some members needed to leave at 3 and there was concern the topics would not be addressed.

April 15 timeline for the report was confirmed.

Dr. Rosenstein noted the workgroup still needs to do the following:

Define the signature program criteria

Write a list of all new and modified programs to be considered and then make tactical recommendations

Micro-degrees need to be defined, a list needs to be made, and recommendations should follow.

Dr. Rosenstein has and needs to share the town hall data.

Mrs. Miller noted a workday may be needed.

Dr. Nathan stated he would let Dr. Stowell know about the request for sending out a new doodle to schedule upcoming meetings.

Dr. O'Rourke –See presentation materials sent via email.

Program for consideration: Gerontologist careers have an increase with high demand;

Trends include: financing, care, cooperate needs as people do not retire, case management, home safety and aging in place;

Career paths include: admin, financial, personal care, housing;

Highering data include: few with special skills to care for aging individuals;

Why at EIU: EIU first in Illinois to have this program, it's online, completion takes 18 months-2.5 years, one of 4 to offer graduate degrees. The are limited programs (other programs include 2 public and 1 private in Illinois and 1 in Indiana). EIU cost less than others. EIU is a national program of merit (is one of 4 to hold that distinction). A new accreditation processes will be coming. Curriculum revisions are recent. Effective fall 17 some curriculum has changed. Enrollment is slowly but steadily growing. Currently 21 students are enrolled. There are six different faculty in aging but are across other programs. This is not currently a stand alone department

The current program has:

Six features signature

Affordable

Accreditation

Development of leadership

Partnerships in community

External research and grant activity

Higher ed collaboration

What is needed includes:

Want more resources...

MA program

Discussions continued informally after meeting end time of 3pm.

Submitted by Amy Rosenstein

