SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS
CU Engineering Advisory Council Meeting on 9/30/2011

The CU-Boulder Engineering Advisory Council (EAC) met on 9/30/2011, and its Resource Development Committee (RDC) met the prior evening. Some of the members also attended the BOLD Advisory Council meeting the prior day. In what follows, the primary recommendations from the EAC meeting and associated subcommittee meetings are provided. This summary report and the slides from the Dean’s update, plus materials from prior meetings, are posted at http://engineering.colorado.edu/overview/advisory_boards.htm. The next meetings of the EAC are scheduled for 4/27/2012, 10/12/2012, and 4/26/2013.

Education Committee: Steve Dunn reported that the Education Committee discussed the first-year experience (kudos to Brian Argrow and Bev Louie for the intro course), Honors Program (immensely successful, and campus funding now provided for its Residential Academic Program), Entrepreneurship and Engineering Management Program (now partnering with a cross-campus entrepreneurship program), and a culture of inclusive excellence (task force being formed to help understand and improve student retention). Key recommendations include

- Establish an advisory board for the Honors Program
- Continue to support an undergraduate engineering management program, with college and private support
- Create a faculty-development program and reward structure to improve the climate for inclusive excellence
- The education committee is large and has lots to do – consider meeting the afternoon before EAC

Partnership Committee: Pam Drew reported that the Engineering Leadership Program is being launched this spring with a gateway course, two elective courses, a team-based project or leadership experience, mentoring, seminars, and a portfolio required. The program is being offered in partnership with the Presidents Leadership Institute. Key recommendations include

- Establish an advisory board of faculty and industry
- Solicit EAC members for mentors and seminar speakers

Research Committee: Frank Doerner reported on considerable success in research, with grant funding reaching a new high this past year despite increased competition for flat or declining federal funds. Key recommendations include

- Bring in corporate CTOs to help forecast future research needs, and then develop a five-year plan
- Seek more intellectual-property royalties, to help self-fund research
- Partner with top schools, such as Stanford and MIT, on major opportunities
- The research committee would like to be more active, with engagement between meetings
**Resource Development Committee:** Doug Smith reported that the Dean’s Fund garnered almost $500K last year, with about half of this amount attributed to Dean’s Club members (annual donations of $1000 or more). The Biotechnology Building will be completed in February 2012. Of the $75 million fundraising goal for this building, there is about $30 million left to raise (including $5 million from engineering donors). Doug also thanked Nan Joesten for leading the successful effort to raise support from EAC members for a lab in the Dean’s honor. Key recommendations and action items include

- RDC and other EAC members are asked to suggest individuals and companies that may have interest in learning about the Biotechnology Building and what it will enable
- RDC and other EAC members are asked to host small events or otherwise help us get in front of people
- The Engineering Development team should consider whether loyal donors with regular contact should still receive annual solicitation phone calls from students

**Other Items:** Other recommendations and items of note include

- EAC members raised $230,000 to name a lab in the Biotechnology Building in the name of Dean Davis – a plaque was presented to the Dean, who was overwhelmed with gratitude for this honor
- Enrollments of women and minorities are at all-time highs in the college, but retention rates are a concern and an EAC taskforce on retention, chaired by Gary Anderson and Nan Joesten, is being formed and will give a report at the next meeting
- Representative Mark Ferrandino described the decline in public funding of higher education (from 20% to 9% of the state general funds in recent years), while the local/state funding mix of K-12 education has shifted from 60/40 to 35/65 due to low property taxes – he noted that higher education provides both private and public good and yet public funding for it will run dry without a change in the state budget structure
- For the next EAC meeting, involve the department chairs, with a couple of them presenting on their departments
- Move forward on cultural changes and strategy issues with big goals, even if not clear how to achieve them, and focus on positive versus negative (e.g., budget cuts)