

Open Forum with the Dean – Questions and Answers

1. Nuclear Engineering minor phased out? No official plans to do away with it.
2. Student Innovation Center timeline and Club relocation from Sweeney? If full funding comes in, demolition will be scheduled but not started immediately. Needs will be met for clubs, including workspaces.
3. International students wanting US Citizen question stickers at career fair? Looking to find a solution to relay information to international students at career fair.
4. Possibility to teach statics, dynamics and materials through Mechanical Engineering? Going through a large changeover in teachers to improve quality. Classes can be taken through any engineering major. Needs from future employers and students needs have changed. It is important to pay attention to student needs.
5. Student studied abroad received half the credit hours, as opposed to Iowa State University, can there be changes made on a case by case basis? College needs to be alert to the credit issues transferring. Cases have been settled by the university before.
6. Section Grade discrepancies, can sections be averaged? Sections have grown, and needed to be split, different teaching styles brought different grade outcomes. The problem is at a department level, and depends on individual teaching styles. Department change depends heavily on course evaluations, which has dropped off significantly.
7. Computer Lab overcrowding, is there anything being done? It is a highly debated issue within the college. Sukup hall has new areas. It is an ongoing issue and continually being looked at.
8. Research career fair, is it considerable? ISU Graduate student association has held poster sessions to network with students. Grad students need the poster and presenting experience, and it would be a good idea. ECE has an annual graduate poster session, as do many other college. REU's over the summer is a way that the college offers employment to undergraduates.
9. What is being done to keep the course catalog up to date (Aerospace Engineering)? Courses are offered via signup sheet in department offices to keep with student's needs
10. How is feedback being gauged in each department? Course evaluations are a big part. The website has a feedback button. Issues and comments are needed in order to take action. Suggested that ESC help promote feedback. Each department has similar systems to gain information, all comments are read personally. Mechanical engineering is ramping up hiring, and welcomes the comments. Input is valued, whether good, bad or ugly.
11. Lack of hands on classes, is there a possibility of offering more classes? Departments handle hands on classes differently. Industry wants a combination of hands on and theoretical skills. There are different classes that offer different hands on opportunities. Clubs are a great way to get hands on experience. Higher education has to be general in order to cover all the topics provided in engineering.
12. The physics curriculum is not applied in a manner that is relevant, can anything be done? Physics is important, despite the 10 credit course. People do well, also not very well. The problem is on going and needs to be addresses. Physics consistently scores low on student evaluations. It has been brought up to have engineering faculty, however it was not accepted.
13. Flooding between Durham and Sweeney, cant it be done? All the college can do is ask FPM to look at the issue and try to fix it.

14. Differential Tuition, how is it determined? Estimates were made based on a set amount. Including the value of the lab equipment. This value doesn't change very often. There is differential waver form to resolve individual issues.
15. Can other majors be allowed to use the labs in Howe? Labs in Aerospace engineering barely support the junior and senior students. Labs further away from the dorms are typically less full. The TLA is open to all majors.