

**Surveying Engineering Technology
Industrial Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2006**

The Fall IAC meeting was held on Friday Dec. 8, 2006. Director David Dvorak introduced Interim Dean of Engineering - Dana Humphrey. Dean Humphrey explained the serious cutbacks in across-the-board funding that are taking place at the University of Maine. The College of Engineering is therefore proposing a \$30 per credit hour differential fee for all engineering students. They believe that engineering courses cost more to teach than other subjects for a number of reasons: faculty salary, engineering equipment updates, etc. This differential must be approved by the President and Board of Trustees before it becomes part of engineering tuition. After some discussion on that subject, the four SET disciplines were separated into individual groups.

Seven SVT advisors met with nine SVT students to learn how the students feel about the program. Some of their concerns had been raised at previous IAC meetings. First students complained that they still do not have access to a plotter. (After the meeting Carlton Brown said students could use the plotter at the library and that he would include instructions on how to use that plotter in his cad classes.)

Some students felt that it was difficult to catch Ray Hintz in his office. Ray explained that he is often running around on campus taking care of department needs. But would try to add more office hours.

Some students also felt that Knud does not "critique" or correct his assignments - he only marks the grade on their papers. Other students explained that Knud posts his desired solutions to the questions online and it is up to the students to critique themselves using that solution.

Most if not all students still complained about BUA-201, Basic Accounting. (Ray Hintz had discussed this issue with that business faculty member last semester. But that professor didn't think he needed to change anything). Ray said he will look into the possibility of using the SVT Small Business Mgmt. course to fill the accounting requirement.

There was a lively discussion on the pros and cons of three hour blocks of instruction. It appeared to me that most students (maybe those without dependents) seemed to favor breaking such courses into two 1.5 hour blocks. But it seemed that non-traditional students preferred the three hour blocks. The three hour block allows full time employees to take college courses in their spare time. Even if they must travel long distances, it is only once per week. But it didn't appear to me that any of the students in this group were in that category - hence the possible disparity in their preferences.

Another lively discussion was held regarding "practical" vs "theoretical" aspects of surveying courses. It appeared that most students would prefer more hands on type of courses. Some advisors felt that students can get all the hands on experience they need after they are employed. Others agreed with the students.

Year	Total in SVT	First Year Freshmen	Degrees Conferred
2006	58	12	4
2005	49	12	0
2004	33	12	1
2003	16	9	0

Minutes submitted by: David Cook