Topics

• Advisory Board Process
• Feedback on Undergraduate Program
  – Objectives
  – Effectiveness of Changes
  – Budget Challenges
  – Student Feedback
• Financial Recommendations
• Overall Impressions
Advisory Board Process

• Develop explicit charter and operating guidelines for the PAB (include terms, membership, mission, frequency, duration)

• Recommendations
  – Chairman input into the meeting agenda
  – Agree with staggered term limits. Need to assure continuity and no more than 1/3 turnover for any given meeting
  – Have government, large aerospace company, and local company representation on the board. Chair should be local.
  – Consider 2 meetings a year – Fall focused on student engagement, Spring focused on program evaluation
    • Fund raising
    • Student support activities
    • ...
  – AEM department head to select chair
Feedback on the Undergraduate Program

• Objectives
  – No issues

• Effectiveness of Changes
  – Highly concerned with not having an Industrial Professor to teach design class and provide industrial perspectives to the students
  – Involve underclassman and Juniors in design projects (AIAA, SAE, ...)
  – Concern that one semester design emphasis is not enough
  – 3.2 grade point threshold for department automatic admittance maybe too high

• Budget Challenges
  – Concern that there may not be enough resources to support Lab Equipment
Feedback on the Undergraduate Program

• Student Feedback
  – Many students suggested that moving the Heat Transfer back to the Sophomore or Junior year
  – Students asked for more help with engineering tool competency
  – Students questioned the value of C++ programming course
  – Access to seminar courses (like honors faculty seminars)
  – Asked for a lot more department support to career planning and exploration
  – Access to faculty was good
  – Concern that student AIAA chapter needs more support / direction from the faculty
Feedback on the Graduate Program

• Need to correct current College funding approach to enable development of an MS only program
  – Assess need and market size before proceeding
  – Explore “graduate certificate” programs

• Agree with focus on expanding undergraduate and graduate scholarships
Overall Observations

• AEM as a department needs to elevate focus on helping students with career planning, preparation, and job searching

• Increase number of US graduate students to enable better interactions with US industry

• Allow non-US graduate students to have internships in the summer of their last 2 years to help in job search and retention of talent in the US

• Energy level, enthusiasm, overall culture – both student and faculty is fantastic. You are all to be commended in making this happen. KEEP IT UP!

• Facility renovation very impressive – great creativity, innovation, and vision on layout and use of the facility

• Critical to improve the professional environment (salary, other forms of compensation, recognition, ...) to assure retention of high talent faculty