

engineering

College of Engineering - Faculty input into budget decisions

1. Describe how faculty and staff are involved in budgeting processes in your college, focusing on procedures assuring timely review and input, and the entities involved in fulfilling the review function.

Staff are highly involved in the process, faculty less so.

The Dean, his financial staff, department chairs, associate chairs, and departmental financial officers have the primary role in determining the budget. The Dean has the final authority and responsibility, but the departments have significant flexibility in how they spend their allotment from the College. Staff who deal with the budget and implementation of policy decisions are involved in the budget discussions. College has placed emphasis on increasing skill levels of these critically important staff members and has hired highly trained people in these positions in recent years including an MBA and a PhD.

Faculty input into budget decisions or processes is not as strong, but there are several key points at which faculty provide input into the budget.

Each departmental chair discusses the budget with the faculty in his or her department. The College of Engineering Faculty Council Chair and Secretary take part in the meetings of the Dean and department chairs where the budget process and priorities are discussed. The Dean also discusses the budget in college faculty meetings, via email, and with the College of Engineering Faculty Council.

Departmental budget process in each department:

MSE: committee being formed

ECE: committee being formed

EES: Chair Advisory Committee comprised of 3 elected faculty advise the chair on budget matters.

CISE: no committee, but chair discusses budget at faculty meeting & asks for input. Also seeks input from the non-elected departmental steering committee, comprised of 5 faculty members and the chair.

CHE: no committee, but chair discusses budget at faculty meeting & asks for input. "Can form one if needed."

NRE: planning on discussing it with faculty

MAE: In MAE the budget was discussed at the faculty meeting and retreat. Faculty input was sought. Other mechanisms such as budget committee can be pursued. The department also has an administrative team which discuss budgetary issues.

ISE: ISE is a fairly small department, so there is no committee that deals with budget issues and resource allocation. This is left to the chair -- although historically it is an open policy as to how department funds are spent.

ABE, BME, CCE: ...

2. Describe plans in place to further develop this process, especially its implementation at all unit levels.

The college is considering the creation of a College Budget Council, as a stand-alone committee, or as a sub-committee of the College Faculty Council. Its charge has yet to be determined - whether it will assist in setting policy and guidelines, or whether it will make specific budget \$\$ recommendations. The Dean is open to the creation of such a committee, as long as its charge is clear.