Dear Dean Adams,

Thank you for submitting your Strategic Alignment and Budget Reduction Implementation document describing the proposed activities that the College of Engineering will be undertaking to comply with previously implemented budget adjustments, and describing your realignment activities both within the college and within the Division of Business and Engineering. The Strategic Alignment and Budget Reduction Review Committee has completed its preliminary review of your document and has the following comments and questions for your consideration:

- The College completed a restructuring into four schools and one department before the current biennium and no further realignment is planned. As such, the budgetary implications for any changes will be minimal.

- The proposed organizational structure is in alignment with the institutional guidelines of no more than four layers (Provost⇒Dean⇒Department Head⇒Faculty). Within this structure, the college is complying with the mandated minimum 6-to-1 reporting guidelines.

- The college has been proactively managing its budget situation in an appropriate and progressive manner. The budget reductions in the current fiscal year were accommodated through a combination of faculty buyouts, deferred IT equipment purchases, and leaving positions unfilled. The committee recognizes that this is not sustainable and that the College plans to raise revenue through a combination of increased differential tuition and E-campus offerings, resources from INTO students, and private fund raising.

- Several programs in the College do not meet academic systems guidelines. While the College report suggests that recent enrollment growth in many of these programs will address this deficiency, a couple of programs (RHP undergrad degree and MBE) are still a challenge. Is there a timeline for meeting guideline targets for these programs? And, if the targets are not achieved are there plans to merge/eliminate these programs?

- What conversations, if any, are taking place with other colleges (COF, CAS) for aligning engineering programs?

- Budget projections for the next biennium indicate that additional cuts will probably be necessary, possibly in excess of 10%. To what extent will the proposed changes address further decreases in state-appropriated funding?

The Committee is expected to develop recommendations for the Provost’s consideration by the end of May and, therefore, would appreciate receiving your response by April 30, 2010. In your response, please clearly identify substantive changes that would need University approval.
Please let me know if you have any questions for the Committee. Also, please do not hesitate to contact me if you think the committee can play a facilitating role in development of plans, either within the College or involving other colleges that may advance the strategic initiatives of the university. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Becky Warner
Committee Chair