Follow up to the March 15, 2010 Report to the Strategic Alignment/Budget Reduction Review Committee

April 30, 2010

The College of Engineering appreciates the Committee’s review of our March 15, 2010 report. Your review resulted in three questions, addressed below.

Question: 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?

Response: Although most undergraduate and graduate programs currently meet or in the near future will meet the University guidelines for the number of graduates, two programs remain a challenge – the undergraduate degree in Radiation Health Physics (RHP) and the Masters in Business and Engineering (MBE). Both programs are working to increase enrollment. The College expects that these two programs will have met the targets by the end of the 2011 – 2013 biennium. If the programs have not met the targets by that time, then the College will merge or eliminate the degrees.

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

Response: We agree that there is an opportunity to gain cross-division alignment of the engineering programs within the Colleges of Agriculture Science, Forestry and Engineering. Periodically, our three colleges have looked at our collaborative degree offerings and have made changes in the past, including transfer of faculty across college boundaries. For the current alignment process, the three deans have agreed to enter again into those discussions.

Question: 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?

Response: Further cuts in the next biennium will be addressed by increases in the differential tuition paid by undergraduate engineering students. Our analysis shows that OSU engineering tuition is somewhat low when compared to resident tuition at other west coast Ph.D.-granting institutions giving us a market opportunity to increase pricing. We are also actively engaged in private fund raising for faculty support with many proposals pending.