





University at Buffalo

The State University of New York

School of Engineering and Applied Sciences

UB Engineering and Applied Sciences Dean's Quarterly Report #9 July 1, 2008 to October 7, 2008

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1. ABET Visit

The visit is over, and I believe we did well. The ten members of the evaluation team were thorough, complimentary, and helpful. Official reports from ABET won't arrive for about four to five months, but we were given an official exit report when they left.

ABET scores each undergraduate Bachelor of Science program with respect to nine criteria: 1. Students, 2. Educational Objectives, 3. Outcomes, 4. Continuous Improvement, 5. Curriculum, 6. Faculty, 7. Facilities, 8. Institutional Support and Financial Resources, and 9. Specific Program Criteria. Criteria 1 to 7 and Criterion 9 are considered Program Criteria and Criterion 8 is an Institutional Criterion. There are four score possibilities for each criterion: Blank (satisfactory), C (concern), W (weakness), or D (deficiency). If any criterion is given a D, the program is on alert that it will lose its accreditation if rapid actions are not taken to correct the problem. Having a weakness means that you must address the issue quickly – usually within two years – with ABET requiring either a report or a visit. Having a concern is something to be aware of and respond to, but ABET does not require formal action until the Next General Review (NGR) which, for UB, will occur in 2014.

While the specific results of each program's review are confidential, I can tell you that there was a long list of strengths identified in all the programs, including significant praise for our faculty and our students. However, while there were some minor concerns in a few programs, there were no program weaknesses or deficiencies in any of our eight programs.

Unfortunately, the School was given one Institutional Criterion weakness that must be addressed in a report to ABET in the fall of 2010. The weakness cited was for “lacking a plan and identifiable resources to maintain and upgrade our teaching laboratories.” While an institutional weakness falls heavily on the shoulders and backs of the administration, I will be asking many of you to help develop a plan to address this weakness. To begin, I have asked Scott Weber to co-chair a Teaching Laboratory Task Force, whose mission will be to develop a comprehensive assessment of our undergraduate labs; a schedule for their continuous maintenance and upgrading; and an annual budget. My goal is to eliminate this current weakness of our school as quickly as possible, and before the next visit in 2014, to make it an Institutional Strength!

I want to thank all the faculty and staff for their terrific work preparing for the visit and for the continuous attention to the quality of our programs.



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2. Budget Update

As of the date of this report, SEAS does not have a budget reduction target for the School. The delay is caused by the additional cuts required in September by NYS on SUNY. These additional cuts have increased the UB reduction target to approximately 10% of our recurring state budget. For the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, a 10% cut is approximately \$2.5M per year. UB’s Vice Presidents and Deans met in September and discussed guiding principles on how to distribute this reduction. While no specific targets were proposed, the group supported the concept that cuts should be made selectively with a goal to preserve momentum in the UB 2020 plan.

As I learn more, I will share it with you as quickly as possible.



3. Metrics Website <http://www.eng.buffalo.edu/dean/metrics/>

This past quarter Nancy Recupero, James Friedman, and I have spent time and effort creating a website to report, organize, catalog and celebrate the various metrics that we use to benchmark UB Engineering against our peers and, at times, against ourselves. *(To maintain confidentiality within our community, I have decided to password-protect the site. In a separate email you will receive a password to gain access. If you do not receive an email with a password in the next two or three days, please contact James Friedman at: jf48@buffalo.edu.)*

The site is still under construction and not all entries are complete, so I encourage your input on its content and design. Please email me with suggestions.

The metric categories on the website are:

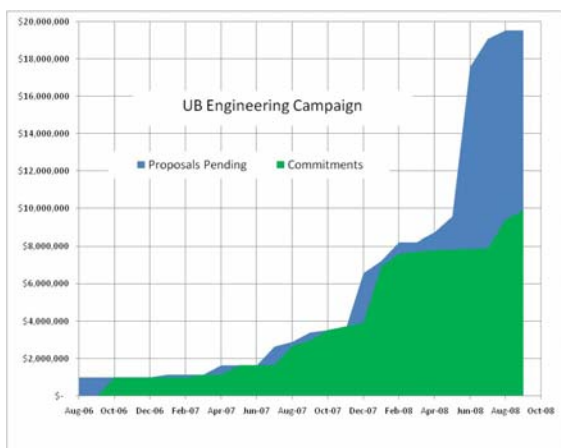
- **Research Metrics:** Awarded Grants and Contracts, Expenditures, PhD and MS degrees, Proposals Submitted, and Publications
- **Teaching Metrics:** School Enrollment, Credit Hours Taught by Departments, Degrees Granted, and Student Evaluations
- **Faculty and Staff Awards**
- **Student Quality and Diversity:** SAT and GRE scores; Geographic, Gender and Racial Diversity

The goal of this website is to make important metrics visible and to help us “keep score” of our outputs and outcomes. My expectation is that by measuring and reporting key metrics we can be more cognizant of the myriad activities occurring in the School, which can help us meet goals and targets. For example, last October we set a goal for the School to increase research proposals by 20%. This past quarter, UB Engineering faculty submitted 117 proposals for \$90M versus 90 proposals for \$25.7 M in the same quarter of 2007 (increases of 30% and 250%, respectively). Was there a cause and effect of our focus on this metric? Probably not! Is this good information to know? Most definitely!



4. New Investments

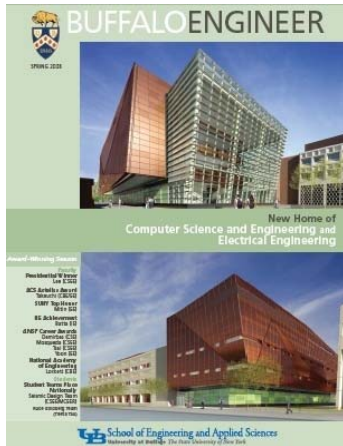
It was a good quarter for philanthropy, the highlight being a \$1,500,000 gift from UB alumnus Jack Davis BSIE '55, President and Founder of I Squared R Inc. in Akron, NY. To honor Jack's gift, UB will name the clean room in the new engineering building after him.



Additionally, two corporations have made significant contributions this quarter to graduate fellowships, student clubs, and our new building. These gifts include a contribution from Carleton Technologies of \$165,000 and from Bird Technologies of \$200,000. We thank both corporations for their support, as well as the UB alumni who hold leadership positions at their companies: Ken Kota at Carleton, and Mike Fetto at Bird.



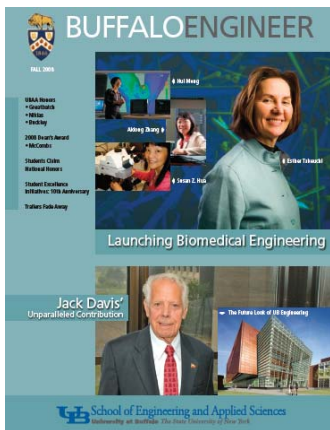
Also, significant progress has been made in meetings with several interested donors. As a measure of this activity, there are over \$9M of proposals pending in support of the School. The chart to the left above shows the accumulated commitments and proposals. The trajectory is strong, and our momentum is gaining.



5. School Communications

<http://www.eng.buffalo.edu/publications.php>

To strengthen the community of our constituents (students, faculty, staff, alumni, corporate partners, elected officials), the school has increased and updated its communication efforts. In particular our semi-annual newsletter is now printed in full color. It has also blended its traditional “school news” content with articles of general interest. This blending is still developing with the help of input from our constituents, and any advice or feedback you have will be greatly appreciated. While we may not reach the “magazine” look that many engineering colleges seek, we hope to find that a blend of a magazine with our traditional information content will engender a sincere connectedness with our constituents and not just another *Technology Review*.





6. Events and Visits

Below is a list of Events and Visits in which I was involved during the past quarter. I have scaled back the number of events and visits listed in my quarterly report to highlight those with school-wide significance.

Date	Visit or Event	Location	Discussion Topics
7/1	Patrick Lee, CEO, International Motion Control	UB Campus	Briefing on and discussion of UB Engineering
7/7	Joe Mesi, Democratic Candidate for State Senate	UB Campus	Discussion of Regional Energy Issues
7/10	Mike Fetto, Engineering Director for Bird Technologies	UB Campus	Collaboration in RF research and education.
7/14	Scott Chadwick, Provost, Canisius College	Canisius Campus	Development of a 3+2 Engineering Program to enhance diversity profile of students at UB
7/14	Laura Zaepfel, VP, Uniland Development Corp.; Board Member at Canisius College	Williamsville, NY	Continue discussion of 3+2 program with Canisius
7/20	Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi (Amma) of Amrita University	Toronto, ON	Discussion of Computer Science's new MS program in India
7/23	David Nye, Amy Ehmann, Dennis Rice, Julie Bartoldson, Dresser Rand	Ellicottville, NY	Discuss ways to increase collaboration with Dresser Rand in research, education, and recruiting.
7/25	Representatives from Fisher Price; Dupont; Ciminelli Construction.	UB Campus	First annual running of the BEAMazing Race.
7/31	Richard Garman, Chris Hogan, OakHill Development; and Ravi Banal, AirSep Inc.	Orchard Park, NY	Briefing on and discussion of UB Engineering
8/13	NIST visitors: James M. Turner, Acting Director; Dr. Shyam Sunder, Director, Building and Fire Research Laboratory; Dr. Jack Hayes, Director, National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program	UB Campus	Discuss NIST programs as they relate to research programs at UB
8/15	Blue Highway, LLC Albert Dirienzo, President and CEO Jack Rudnick, General Counsel	UB CoE	Discuss research support opportunities for Blue Highway (part of Welch Allyn)
8/18	Mark Georger and Ann Wegrzyn, National Fuel	Williamsville, NY	Review summer internship program with National Fuel
8/25	Phillipe Marc, ENSEA	UB Campus	Discuss exchange program between UB EE and ENSEA (Paris France)
8/26	Jack Davis, I Squared R	Akron, NY	Support for new Engineering Building

8/27	Stephanie Mucha, UB Engineering friend	Williamsville, NY	Discuss scholarship and capital support for UB Engineering.
8/28	Dennis Elsenbeck, VP, National Grid and Susan Crossett, VP, National Grid	UB Campus	Discuss National Grid UB Engineering partnerships
9/5	Allan Kidd, Dresser Rand	UB Campus	Discuss research opportunities at Dresser Rand
9/10	Harry Moore and Leon Manole, ARDEC Munitions Systems	UB Campus	Discuss research opportunities at ARDEC
9/17	Press conference to announce Oishei gift to launch Biomedical Engineering Department	UB CoE	
9/22	Winfried Heinzl, Director International and External Affairs; Jorg Lange Dean of Civil Engineering; Hans Linke Director of Institute for Geotech; Reiner Anderl, Vice President; Rolf Katzenbach; Director of Institute for Geotechnics; Andreas Haun, Service Center Director Electrical Engineering	Darmstadt, Germany	Discuss exchange programs and research collaborations
9/24	Fatos Germirli Babuna, Professor of Environmental Engineering; Hasan Boduroglu, Professor of Civil Engineering; Dafne Korur, Support director for DDP programs; Derin Ural, Professor of Civil Engineering, Director of DDP	Istanbul, Turkey	Discuss UB – Istanbul Technical University Dual Degree Programs in Civil and Environmental Engineering
9/26	International Programs: Raphael Benois and Christan Ninino; Professor of ME Emmanuelle Rouhaud and President Christian Lermينياux; University of Technology at Troyes	Troyes, France	Discuss summer and exchange programs between UB and UTT

If you would like more information on any of the topics, please contact me.

Sincerely,
Harvey