










University at Buffalo

The State University of New York

School of Engineering and Applied Sciences

UB Engineering and Applied Sciences Dean's Quarterly Report #15 January 1, 2010 to March 31, 2010

<p>1. Progress in a headwind</p> 	<p>2. Faculty searches</p> 	<p>3. Graduate and Research Enhancements</p> 	<p>4. Enrollment Expectations</p> 	<p>5. Report on Development</p> 	<p>6. News</p> 	<p>7. Events and Visits</p> 
---	---	---	--	---	---	--



1. Progress in a headwind

The budget reduction in state support to SEAS for the 2009-10 academic year was \$860,000 from our approximately \$24.5M state budget allocation. Simultaneously, the contracted salary raises for UUP and CSEA increased our budget by approximately \$980,000. This resulted in a state funds budget increase of approximately \$120,000 for the 2009-10 academic year. However, we still had to reduce spending by the \$860,000 cut. This was done by reducing our teaching assistant funds by 10%, reassigning staff to fill retirement vacancies, and making just two faculty hires that started in 2009-2010 while eight faculty members retired or left UB for other reasons.

For 2010-11 we have been assigned a pre-year cut of \$200,000, and we have been told to expect another cut to the 2010-11 budget of \$600,000, for a total budget cut of \$800,000. Simultaneously, the contracted across the board salary increases and discretionary salary funds will increase our budget allocation by approximately \$1.1M. Although we will have to meet the \$800,000 budget reduction, there will be a significant difference in our approach this year.

Since my last quarterly report, the school has been successful in reaching a three-year agreement with the Provost to share over-target tuition revenue paid by our graduate students. This new revenue source will bring us approximately \$925,000 for 2010-11. The majority of this revenue (75%) will be allocated to departments and will have a net effect of increasing department discretionary funds in 2010-11 relative to 2009-10. These increases will help us meet the increased work load anticipated from our growing enrollment of graduate students.

In addition to this budget increase, the school has faculty vacancies sufficient to hire 12 new faculty members (see next section). These lines come from six faculty members who will be retiring,

or leaving for other reasons at the end of this academic year, combined with the net loss of six faculty members between last year and this year.

What will 2011-12 look like? The metaphor used to title this section, Progress in a headwind, will be appropriate for the foreseeable future. Our school's progress will come from these important factors:

- Our ability to receive external funds for research,
- The success of our development activities,
- Our ability to be the leading academic entity at UB,
- Our ability to grow simultaneously and synergistically in both quality and size, and
- Legislative endorsement of UB2020.

The good news is that most of these factors are in our control; the bad news is that one of them is not!



2. Faculty Searches

The school is nearing the end of the twelve faculty searches described in our last [quarterly report](#), with the expectation to fill all twelve positions by the fall of 2010. Over 1500 applications were received, and to date 37 candidates have been interviewed, with 13 more interviews scheduled. The candidates are from top ranked universities and engineering schools, including University of Illinois, Princeton, Harvard, Purdue, University of Michigan, University of Minnesota, University of Texas, Texas A&M, USC, Johns Hopkins, Penn State, and MIT.

One search, an ICT hire in MAE, has concluded successfully with the hiring of Iman Borazjani from Minnesota.

The time and effort that our search committees have input has been exceptional, the support of the staff extraordinary, and the hosting by faculty members has been done with our typical Buffalo hospitality. I have been fortunate to arrange my schedule to meet all the candidates, and I am certain that even for the unsuccessful candidates, UB and Buffalo will become names with new importance.



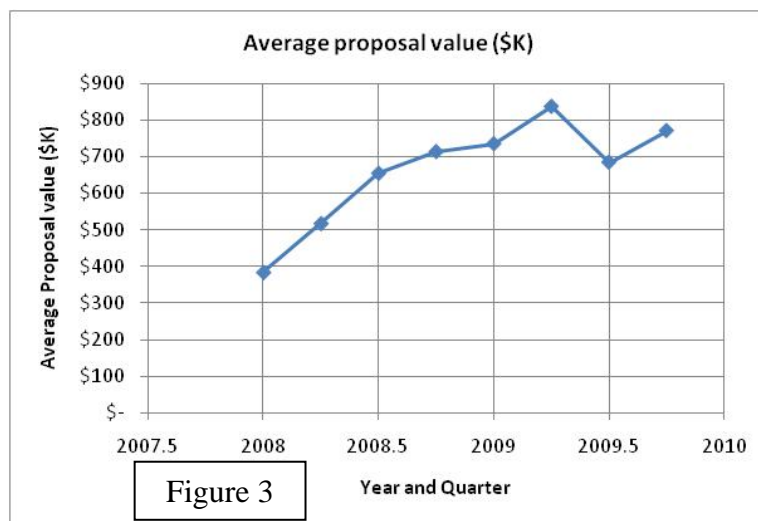
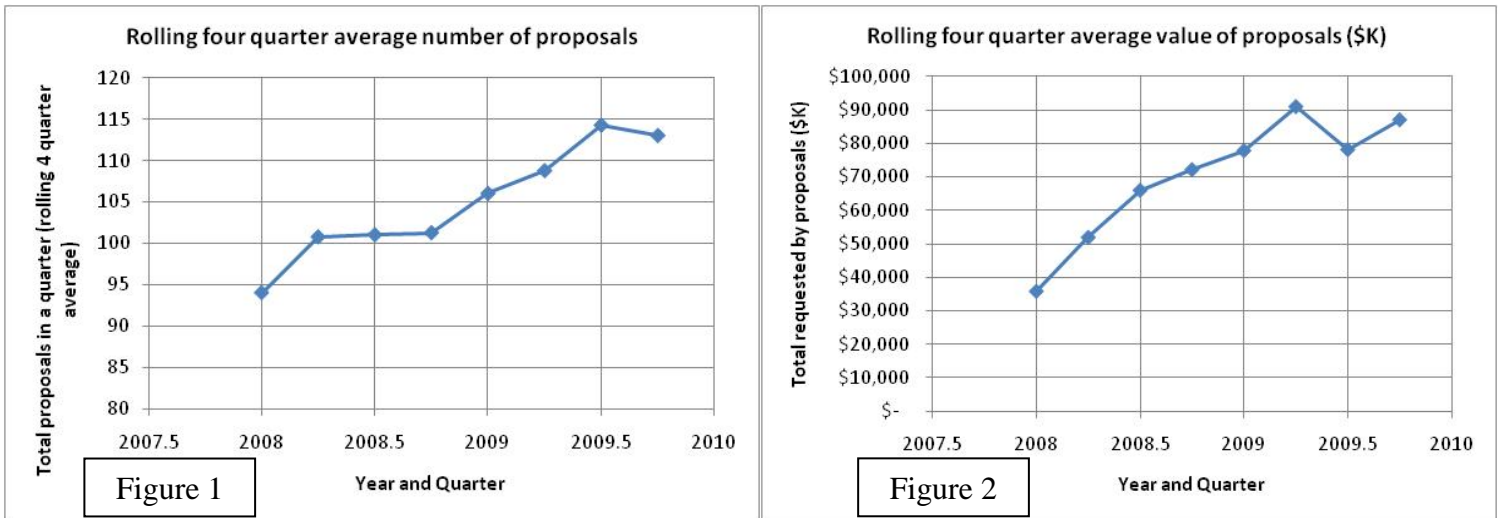
3. Graduate and Research Initiatives

With the new funds earned through the graduate tuition sharing policy, initiatives to enhance our research and graduate programs are beginning. As part of these enhancements, Rajan, Stella, and I, with input and advice from the Department Chairs, the Graduate Academic Programs Committee,

and the Research Advisory Committee have developed a list of 16 initiatives aimed at enhancing the experiences and education of our graduate students. These initiatives are described in detail in a report that can be found at the following link: [GandRInitiatives.pdf](#).

On a related subject, we continue to see our research funding, expenditures and proposal output steadily grow. This past quarter, SEAS faculty members submitted 111 proposals totaling \$104,197,844, giving us a year-to-date total of 346 proposals requesting \$296,118,380. Compared to this time last year, proposal submissions are up 8.8%, and total amount requested is up 14.2%.

The following figures show a three-year trend of our proposal output. The values plotted are the trailing four quarter averages (from the first quarter of 2007-08 to the third quarter of 2009-10) of proposals submitted, amount requested, and the quotient of these two. These figures show steady growth in the number of proposals (Figure 1), the dollars requested per quarter (Figure 2), and also the size of the proposals (Figure 3).





4. Enrollment Expectations

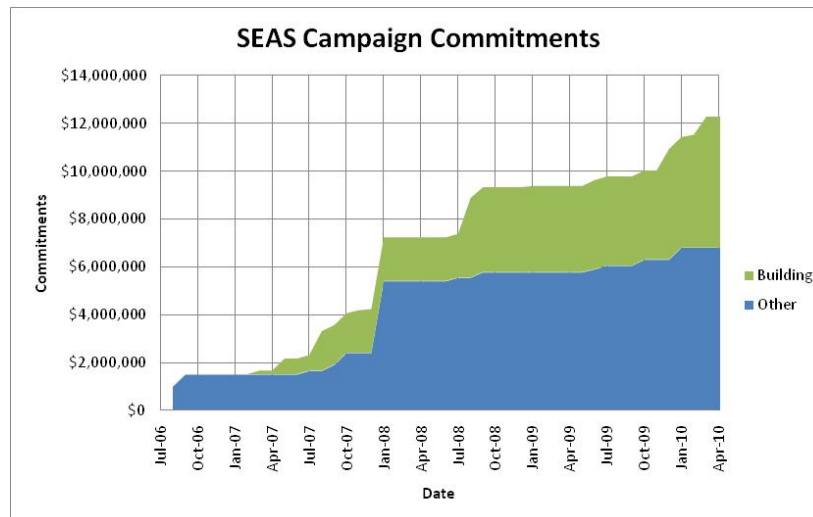
As of March 31, 2010 our graduate applications are up 5% from last year, with a total of 4,956 applications received. We still have several more weeks to admit students, but as of March 31, we have admitted 1,290 students compared to 1,304 at the same time last year. Our final numbers for last year were: 4,952 applications and 1,936 admitted. Assuming that our applications, admission decisions, and yield on offers track last year, we should anticipate approximately 5,180 applications, 1,870 admitted students, and 410 new graduate students enrolling in the fall of 2010.

Undergraduate applications have risen approximately 9% this year with a total of 3,489 applications received. Because of our strong growth in applications, we increased our minimum SAT threshold by 30 points over last year. This will have a significant impact on our student quality metrics next fall. When we made this threshold change decision in October 2009, we knew it might reduce the number of students admitted; however, as of April 1 SEAS has admitted 2,015 students compared to 1,816 on the same date last year. This may bring a slightly larger freshman class, but we also anticipate that having a higher quality pool of candidates may lower the percentage of students who will accept our offer of admission.



5. Report on Development

During this past quarter, we believe we have written and presented our final proposals for the new building. If the half dozen proposals totaling \$2.35M are successful, we will reach our goal for construction of the new building. The majority of these proposals have been verbally committed, and we are waiting for written confirmation. The following chart shows the amount of gifts committed over the past four years (It does not include the \$2.35 M in proposals referenced above.)



This performance is good, but not great. With dozens of companies that rely heavily on UB graduates to run and advance their organizations, and our more than 20,000 of alumni, we have the potential of much more. Achieving that potential will require the continued dedication of our development staff and the creation of connectedness with our alumni and corporate partners. One cause for hope is that by completing the campaign for the new building allows us to focus on areas that may be of greater interest to donors such as scholarships, professorships, enhanced student experiences, and discretionary support to advance our reputation.



6. News

In a few days, our semiannual magazine the Buffalo Engineer will be delivered electronically to your email address. Some highlights that will be featured in that issue include:

- UB's response to the Haiti earthquake
- A \$1M scholarship gift from Erich Bloch
- Professor Takeuchi's National Medal Ceremony
- Alumni news featuring brief stories of more than 50 of our graduates
- Research highlight stories on seven of our faculty members
- Student club competition success stories
- And more...



7. Events and Visits

Below is a brief list of important external events and visits during the past quarter.

Date	Visit or Event	Purpose
1/6	MedTech Science and Technology Committee	Enhancing relations with Upstate Biotech firms
1/11	John Stanfill, President Amherst Systems Division of Northrop Grumman	UB-NG partnership
1/19	Mike Keller, President Keller Technologies	UB-Keller partnership
1/21	IDEX Visit	Discussion of UB's research strengths with six members of IDEX Inc's management
1/23	Future City Competition	Out-reach to local middle school students
1/25	Student Dinner at Ellicott	Dinner with some of our best engineering freshmen
January	Four faculty candidate interviews	EE(2), MAE(2)
2/5	I-90 Conference Planning Meeting	Seven upstate NY universities organizing activities in Information Technology
2/25	BEAM Awards Breakfast	Annual award banquet for the award winning BEAM program
February	Eight Faculty Interviews	MAE(2), EE(2), CSE(3), ISE(1)
3/2	Cameron Visit	Overview visit of UB by seven Cameron Inc. executives
3/9	Buffalo Public Schools, Dr. James Williams	Meeting to discuss partnership ideas between UB SEAS and Buffalo Public Schools
3/14	Cognigen Workshop	Discussion of projects to determine success factors of projects
3/26	Scholarship Reception	Recognition of the \$1M of scholarships given to over 200 UB SEAS students
March	Seventeen Faculty Interviews	CBE(2), CSE(7), CSEE(2), EE(1), MAE(2), ISE(3)

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

Sincerely,
Harvey

