

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

PROPOSED NEW INSTITUTE AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
ENGINEERING POLICY AND LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Action Requested: Consider recommending approval to the Board of the request by Iowa State University to establish a new Engineering Policy and Leadership Institute that will report to the College of Engineering.

Executive Summary: The goals of the proposed Institute are to increase the engagement of engineers in the development of national policies that involve the use of technology and to increase the pipeline of engineers in elected and appointed roles at all levels of government. The proposed Institute will serve as an umbrella organization for three major components – Engineering Leadership Program; Engineering Faculty Fellowship Program; and the Engineering Policy and Leadership Institute Thematic Year. This proposal was reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval.

Background:

◇ Engineering Leadership Program (ELP).

- ☑ The ELP is a student-based honors and leadership program begun in Fall 2006 with a \$1 million gift from 3M, Inc. and additional giving of \$150,000 by individuals.
- ☑ The culmination of the ELP experience will be internships with congressional committees, delegations, or federal agencies.
- ☑ The successful outcome of the Program will be to graduate young engineers with the skills and propensity to serve in public leadership roles.

◇ Engineering Faculty Fellowship Program (EFFP).

- ☑ The Program will sponsor engineering faculty who serve on the staffs of congressional committees, delegations, or federal agencies.
- ☑ The purpose of the Program is for faculty to learn about the governing process and development of public policies dealing with technology and to bring that knowledge to ISU.

◇ Engineering Policy and Leadership Institute Thematic Year.

- ☑ The proposed Institute will host visitors and conduct seminars and workshops to discuss in-depth a single issue of national importance whose resolution involves the use of technology (e.g., global warming, infrastructure renewal).
- ☑ The Thematic Year will end with a capstone workshop where the results of the year-long discussions will be made public.

- ◇ Duplication. The proposed Institute will be unique in its structure and goals of leadership development and public engagement. The most similar entity is the Department of Engineering and Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University which provides a degree-granting academic program with an education focus.
- ◇ Relationship of proposed Institute to other centers/institutes at the University. The proposed Institute anticipates collaborations with existing University programs, including the Political Science Department; the Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics; and the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies.
- ◇ Facilities. The proposed Institute will only require offices and seminar rooms which are currently available in the College of Engineering. No special laboratories or experimental facilities will be required.
- ◇ Personnel. The proposed Institute will have a director and part-time staff support. The ELP has a half-time director and staff support. The EFPF and thematic year will likely share a director and staff support. Faculty will have unpaid (or courtesy) appointments in the proposed Institute. An unpaid external advisory board will support the efforts of the proposed Institute.
- ◇ Equipment. No special equipment will be required.
- ◇ Expected need. The proposed Institute will begin with a five-year charter. Its renewal in five-year increments will depend on successful peer review coordinated by the external advisory board.
- ◇ Costs. The cost of the proposed Institute is expected to be \$250,000 during the first year and \$750,000 by the fifth year. The proposed Institute received a gift of \$500,000 for operations in December 2006. The ELP is currently funded for a four-year period. The EFPF and Thematic Year will begin only after external funds are obtained. Should external funding end, the Dean of the College of Engineering will determine whether funds should be reallocated or loaned to the Institute to continue operations.
- ◇ Link to Strategic Plans. The proposed Institute addresses the University's Strategic Plan vision – "Iowa State University will be the best at advancing the land-grant ideals and putting science and technology to work. Students will become broadly educated, global citizens who are culturally informed, technologically adept, and ready to lead. Faculty and staff will share a passion for creating, sharing, and applying knowledge to improve lives world-wide." It also supports the Board of Regents' Strategic Plan to "discover new knowledge through research, scholarship, and creative activities (Priority 2.0) and provide needed service and promote economic growth (Priority 3.0)."

Details about the proposed Institute are available in the Board Office.