Welcome to the EECS Town Hall
Department Review

EECS ...a crown jewel of UC Berkeley

Recommendations:

1. Grow EECS in order to allow it to respond to emerging opportunities. The EE side of the house is significantly less competitive than a decade ago.

2. Address diversity issues across the board – certainly within EECS, where a far greater commitment is required, but also within the College and within the University

3. Improve communication across the board (including communication from the University and the College, not just within EECS)

4. Address the “mental health and well-being concerns of graduate students

5. Address undergraduate advising issues

6. Focus greater attention on the engagement of undergraduates in research,

7. Move forward with the MEECS program, as discussed in (12) below.

8. Provide equitable faculty salaries (Campus-wide issue)
NRC Rankings

EECS: Ranked 6-15

Computer Science: Ranked 3-6

EECS Department is coordinating with MIT to officially respond.
M.Eng

The College aims to open a one-year professional masters program beginning Fall 2011.

EECS, IEOR, MSE and NE plan to offer the M.Eng.

This degree will have a structured curriculum with an emphasis on teaching project management and team leading.
GSI Supplement Policy

Domestic students - You are eligible for an additional 5% GSR IF...
- you are conducting research on a funded project at an appropriate level of effort
- you are working meet your teaching requirement
- you have 20 hour GSI appointment
- you have a permanent advisor
The amount of the 5% GSR is ~$1700.

Foreign students - You are eligible for a stipend in the above amount.

*All supplements are subject to faculty approval. Exception Forms are NO longer required
The Grad Matters Office will track all appointments which exceed 50%
GSI Supplement Policy

Spring 2010 Results - Additional GSR Appt or Stipend

Domestic students: 92% of eligible students rec'd additional appt.  
International: 81% of eligible students rec'd stipend

Fall 2010 Results - Additional GSR Appt or Stipend

PAYMENTS ARE IN-PROGRESS...so far  
Domestic students: 44% of eligible students have rec'd additional appt.  
International: 33% of eligible students rec'd stipend
Note to Chairs: These are questions to fold into the Chair’s presentation unless you’d rather have D. Culler read them to you as moderator.

Action Plan

Q. “What is the faculty action plan for following up on the conversations that take place at this town Hall?”

A. : Leadership will meet to discuss how to implement

Feedback Loop:

Q. “Faculty usually get feedback from graduate students through student administered quizzes. This is the first town hall in 10 years. How can we develop a more consistent feedback mechanism for grad students, so that the faculty and administration can be regularly reminded of the issues that are the most important to us?

A. : Make the Town Hall a regular an annual event, continued presentations from student leaders to faculty at the retreat, prelim review meeting, meetings with student leaders

Hiring:

Q. “What is the forecast for departmental hiring in the next few years? Is the university hiring freeze starting to thaw?”

A: EECS was able to hire two new faculty during the freeze, we will continue to advocate for what the department needs.
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Q & A Topics for Unstructured Question Time
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COMMUNITY & DIVERSITY

Department Community: "How can we build community between and within the EE and CS divisions? (Let's try to stick to constructive ideas, and not compare the two divisions, or brand them as better and worse...)

Faculty Diversity: "What are we planning to do to attract and retain under-represented minorities in computer science? Will there be support from the faculty?"
Graduate Student Well-being/Mental Health: Undertaking a Ph.D. in a top graduate program like ours is, by nature, a stressful endeavor. Are there ways in which the department could assist students in coping with the stress or reduce the stress (without compromising the quality of the work)?
Lab Rotations: "Would it be possible to introduce structured lab/research group rotations for incoming students? Each student could choose 2-3 advisors with whom he/she is interested in working and spend some number of months interacting with each group."

Time to Degree: "Does the department have plans to reduce the median time to graduate to be closer to the normative (advertised) time to graduate, and to bring us in line with our peer institutions (Stanford=5, MIT=5.8, UCB=6.3)?"
Undergrads in Grad Courses: "I've been noticing more undergrads in the graduate courses. This normally isn't a problem, but when they approach 50% of the students, the quality falls. What can we do to allow undergrads to participate while maintaining the graduate experience?"
Q & A Topics

SPACE & ACCESS

**Private Meeting Space:** "Is there a way to add private meeting spaces for non-ParLab/RadLab students? Could we turn some large alcoves or unused offices into small meeting rooms? The alcoves on the 5th & 6th floors are often booked for things like office hours."

**Noise:** "Can we get a cell phone booth on each floor so that we don't have to hear people's cell conversations in the hallway?"