EE Town Hall

12 October 2015
Agenda

We are mindful of your time. Let’s have a productive and constructive town hall!

12.10 - 12.15 : Present Table Topics
12.15 - 12.45 : Table Discussions (GOAL: Action Item)
12.45 - 01.15 : Table Representative Gives Summary (5 min/table)
01:15 - 01:30 : Open Floor for Q/A
Table Topics: Important Departmental Issues

The following topics were identified to be major issues among EE graduate students:

Degree Requirements
Diversity and Retention
Facilities
GSI Hour Appointments
GSI Hiring Process

See a topic you’d like to get addressed? Open discussion at end of meeting.
Table Topic: Degree Requirements

- Prelim breadth requirement
- Inside minor
- Number of courses required
- Number of courses available
- Any confusion
- Filling out forms
Table Topic: Diversity and Retention

Minority Issues:

- Methods to increase diversity among students and faculty
- Methods to promote inclusion for all students
- Retention in both students and faculty

Percentage of Minority in Dept: 6%

This past year, we had 50% yield on women and URM, which is up from 30% in previous years
Table Topic: Facilities

Facilities:

- Cleanliness - trash pick-up
- Upgrade water fountains (water in labs)
- Air conditioning in some areas
- Bike Storage for all graduate students
- Keycard access control - still get tailgating
- Poor phone signal - loss sense of security
- Gender neutral bathroom

Satisfaction of Departmental Facilities (key card access, maintenance, lounge space, etc)

- Yes: 30.8%
- No: 69.2%

Histogram of On a scale of 1 to 5, how safe do you feel in the department?

- On a scale of 1 to 5, how safe do you feel in the department?
Table Topic: GSI Hiring Process

GSI Hiring form clarity

GSI requirements - Workshops and redundancy

GSI Fee Processing

Receiving an appointment
Table Topic: GSI Hour Appointments

GSIs working more than 20 hours a week are not justly compensated

New courses take lots of hours to develop and work on

Enrollment inflation vs financial strain

Why smaller classes equate to lower hour appointments
Summary of Last Year’s Action Items
2015 EE Grad Town Hall

Status of Action Items from 2014
Issue:
Students would like more opportunities to interact with faculty.

Status:
• New Graduate Student seminar provides opportunities to hear faculty research talks.
• EECS café to open in spring 2016.
Issue:
Students want more opportunities to interact with representatives from industry.

Status:
• The External Relations Group (XRG) organized approximately 100 recruitment talks with companies last year.
• The EECS Colloquium series is held Wednesday afternoons.
• The XRG group created the EECS jobs and internships website.
Issue:
There is a lack of diversity in ethnicity and gender among the graduate student and faculty populations.

Status:
• 50% yield of female students entering in fall 2015 (22 new students).
• 50% yield of under represented minorities (9 new students)
• Three female faculty added for the 2015 – 2016 academic year.
Examples of Diversity Efforts

• Microsoft Research funding for CS KickStart and CS Scholars.

• Professor King-Liu has a proposal that brings students from Historically Black Colleges to UC Berkeley to work with EECS Faculty.

• EE Professor Laura Waller submitted an NSF Proposal that if funded will bring students to Berkeley for summer research, secure funding for prospective students to visit Berkeley, and provide support for admitted PhD students the summer before they start classes.

• The Department received a grant from the Division of Equity and Inclusion that funded Diversity training for EECS Staff, incoming PhD students, and undergraduate student instructors.

• Several CS Faculty received a grant from Google to support diversity in Computer Science.
Student Involvement with Diversity Efforts

• A dozen EECS students mentored students last summer via the SUPERB REU Program.

• The GSAs hosted Berkeley Edge students last November (two are now PHD students this fall).

• WICSE students hosted the Rising Stars in EECS Conference. The Rising Stars Conference resulted in the recruitment of new AI faculty member Anca Dragan.

• BGESS hosted an event to bring together prospective African American graduate students with current EECS grad students.

• WICSE held a similar event last summer for prospective female graduate students involved in summer research programs on campus.
Issue:
There continues to be incidents of theft in and around Cory hall.

Status:
Theft in the department is unfortunate.
Individuals can do their part by remaining vigilant (e.g., lock personal belongings in a secure location, and prevent tailgating of strangers into card key access only areas or into the building after hours).
Please find a table that discusses your topic of interest, introduce yourself, and speak up!

Each table elect an focal (faculty or student)

Goal: *Action Item* that addresses your topic

-- 15-min Discussion --
Time to start wrapping-up

Table focal - be prepared to summarize and present

Action Item

-- 5-min Notice --
Table Topic Summaries

GSI Hour Appointments
Facilities
GSI Hiring Process
Degree Requirements
Diversity