

Final Report on Council of BME Chairs

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Summary

On October 12, 2001, the Chairs of the US Departments of Biomedical Engineering met at Connecticut Old State House at Hartford, Connecticut. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss common curricular and research BME matters. The main subjects discussed were:

- The BME-IDEA workshop
- Engineering World Health
- New Program Reviewers for ABET
- Goals of the Long-range Planning Committee of the Council of Chairs
- The advancement of a K-12 outreach program by the Biomedical Engineering Society
- The election of new office of the Council of Chairs of Biomedical Engineering. Dr. Norberto Grzywacz from the USC Department of Biomedical Engineering was elected secretary.

New Outcomes and Impact of Spent Funds

Of the 112 BME departments with membership in the Council of Chairs, the chairs of 65 were in attendance. Besides discussing important matters of BME, the purpose of having Dr. Grzywacz attend the meeting was to increase the visibility of the VSoE BME Department. This outcome was met fully, as in addition to being an active participant in the meeting, he managed to be elected to an officer position. Therefore, he raised the BME@USC department to the map among its peers. We thus hope that the spent funds were instrumental in raising the visibility of the department and thus helping raise its future rankings.

New Directions

We intend to get even more involved with the Council of Chairs of BME. For instance, Dr. Grzywacz intends to run for the presidency of the council next year.

In addition, we are planning other activities to increase the visibility of BME@USC. We have been bringing Chairs of other leading BME departments for visits. In the academic years 2010/2012, twelve Chairs came for visits. Several of the visitors left expressing admiration for our department. They often said that they had not realized how strong our department really was. We intend to continue bringing the Chairs in AY 2012/2013.

Furthermore, we propose to send ten of our top Ph.D. students to the meeting of the Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES). This is the meeting where the leading departments of BME in the country come to present their work. Historically, our students have gone to other meetings, whose focuses align with the specific interests of the BME faculty. These meetings include those of the Society for Neuroscience (for our neuroengineers), the Acoustical Society of America (for our ultrasound experts), and so on. Going to meetings such as these makes sense for the specific research subjects of our faculty, but tend to make BME@USC somewhat invisible to other BME departments. We want to encourage participation in the main generic BME meeting (that of BMES). The students will help increase our visibility in five ways: First, they will present our work to the BME community at large. Second, they will manage the USC chapter at BMES (created in 2012). Third, they will help us man a new booth that we would like to put at BMES. All other major BME departments have booths at BMES. Fourth, the BMES meeting will provide our students with a great opportunity to learn about academic BME. This may help shift the outlook of some of our students towards academic careers instead of focusing mostly on industrial ones. Fifth, they will help organize a reception that faculty and students from other departments will attend.