Dean’s Response
To
Program Review

Technology Systems Department
College of Technology

December 15, 2006

Dr. Roudebush was appointed as Acting Chair of Technology Systems this past summer and inherited a complex department that is undergoing significant change in organizational structure and curricular development. The program review was written almost entirely by the previous chair, Tom Andrews, with minimal faculty input. Dr. Roudebush has many challenges as Acting Chair, particularly with a new Dean anxious to gather information concerning the department and college. The recommendation to rewrite the program review posed a great challenge for Dr. Roudebush, particularly since there was no program review faculty committee to recall in support of a rewrite. The specific recommendations of the external reviewers and the review committee are acknowledged and not in dispute. The department will produce a report for spring 2007, addressing recommendations of the committee and will use data available through the College and Institutional Research where appropriate.

The College of Technology has undertaken several initiatives this fall semester, 2006, in an effort to establish a coherent identity. This is a critical and challenging task, given the 2 department structure within the college and diversity of programs in each department. Initial discussion in COT has focused on four areas – resource management, student success, scholarship, and development. The message to the college has a core of accountability, student success, and unified mission and vision.

The college structure is comprised of 2 departments, a coop office, and a program services office along with several research/engagement centers. Departments have been instructed to develop strategic initiatives and accompanying strategic decisions in context of this structure – department versus individual programs. The history in the college has been to value the program with minimal consideration of the department. Based on the program review recommendations and the response from the acting chair, the department will develop a revised program review during spring 2007 using data to effectively evaluate individual programs. Specific recommendations of the review committee will be addressed. The chair has been advised to seek help from the program coordinators in developing the revised review.

In response to the program review committee recommendations:

A. Department Planning
   The department chairs have been informed and understand the college functions with a 2 department structure. All goals must be developed as one unit of governance (department) and not as a series of programs within a departmental structure. The acting chair of Tech Systems has taken several actions that
reinforce the department structure and has conveyed to faculty that decisions will be made as a department, particularly related to resource allocation.

B. Enrollment Management
Enrollment management is a college wide concern and has been discussed formally in a college event held this past October. Serious attention was given to the opportunity presented by capping enrollments in specific programs and increasing enrollment standards. Program growth not matched with faculty resources will drive this discussion. Appropriate data will drive this discussion. Low enrollment programs (e.g. manufacturing) must restructure with compelling information that supports the potential growth in students that will occur with the restructured program.

C. Faculty Productivity
Faculty productivity is one of four initiatives defined as high priority within the college. Action has been taken to provide a platform to support faculty scholarship. The Center for Applied Technology (CAT) is the priority in this effort and was charged to establish a mechanism that will support and encourage faculty scholarship. This effort will result in a complete restructure of CAT to effectively manage the budget, establish an academic mission for the Large Format Digital Imaging Lab, and support faculty, staff, and students in research.

The COT COOP program has established over 2400 relationships with industry and government. These partner companies and organizations present significant potential to support applied research for faculty, staff, and undergraduate students.

D. Staffing
The proposed program in Design and Technology Systems has been revised as a BS in Engineering Technology with 2 tracks – quality management and mechanical design. At the national level, there is renewed recognition and interest in the importance of manufacturing engineering education. The laboratory component to support the proposed degree is critical to achieve program credibility – Technology Accreditation Commission/Accrediting Board for Engineering and Technology, TAC/ABET accreditation. Faculty understand the requirement for a credible, industry driven program supported through external funding, particularly the lab component. There is an opportunity to develop a significant program with direct economic impact for Ohio that will attract a better prepared student and provide greater career opportunities.

2. Assessment
The Dean and Associate Dean for COT have scheduled a series of meetings in December and January devoted to assessment. A defined continuous improvement plan will be developed by each department and program office in COT for initial implementation spring 2007. All plans will have a common process tailored for specific use by programs. Objectives, learning outcomes, assessment tools, and metrics will be reviewed.
3. Program Review Process for the College of Technology
The Dean concurs with the recommendation to establish a college-based activities/entities review in addition to the department reviews. The assessment process will be required of all college-based activities/offices, comparable to department assessment. The assessment process will support the program review process.