Present: Ruth Person, Gerard Voland, Greg Tewksbury, Emily Newberry, Chris Douglas, Cathy Larson, Jie Song, Wieqi Li, Chris Pearson, Jerry Glasco

Absent: Sharman Siebenthal

Guests: Albert Price

Emily Newberry called the meeting to order.

Albert Price was introduced as interim dean of CAS. Albert is here to present the CAS response to the CSE (College of Science & Engineering proposal).

**Item of Discussion**

- **CSE Proposal ~ CAS Response**

Dean Price began by stating that rather than take a critical approach to the proposal, he would rather see the parties working together for the greater good of the College. Dean Price stated his belief that the proposal doesn't offer suggestions or ideas for trying to resolve issues, but rather heads toward establishing a separate school.

Dean Price believes there are three primary issues: (1) too few faculty, (2) outdated equipment; (3) space. Dean Price admitted that the prior dean's administration did little to address the requests of the science and engineering units and believes there were many unnecessary restrictions placed on units. He also believes, however, that it is necessary to identify the "needs" related to the STEM initiative. Dean Price believes the CAS dean's office has begun to address the problems in science and engineering, but understands the need for forward momentum and feels what is currently missing is the inclusiveness of STEM. (It should be noted that mathematics is NOT included in this proposal, but may be added at a later time.) Dean Price also expressed his concern that establishing a new college could potentially lead to less integration with other CAS units.
It is the vision of interim Dean Price to create a STEM division within CAS, with an associate dean.

Interim Dean Price reported that among the 15 Michigan public universities, two have a separate college of science and engineering (Central and SVSU). The CSE proposal alleges greater success in obtaining grants; however, there is no supporting documentation of this claim.

With regard to budget planning, Interim Dean Price is looking to establish a revolving fund of approximately $200,000 dedicated to STEM, which would also allow for increased faculty release time. Interim Dean Price believes a STEM division within CAS (as opposed to a separate college), would result in substantial savings to the university, given the CSE proposal estimates approximately $800,000 as being necessary for a dean's office.

Interim Dean Price commented that although the CSE proposal talks about a vision, he, personally, does not feel one has been articulated. It is his belief that there needs to be a change in the way we view problem-solving and that integrating programs is absolutely necessary. Without question he believes there is/was a structural issue within CAS, but he is working diligently to rectify this.

G. Voland stated that he could debate what a vision for a new CSE college might look like and that for now, he would “agree to disagree.” Interim Dean Price responded that it was his belief that the college has never opposed the creation of new units.

E. Newberry (chair) thanked Interim Dean Price for attending and discussing the CAS response to the CSE proposal. Thereafter a 'round-table' discussion commenced.

C. Larson inquired what a STEM “division” within the college might look like and whether issues that should be common within departments would remain in those specific units.

C. Douglas questioned where proposed monies (associated with establishing a division) for STEM would be used ~ (1) grant writer; (2) recruiter; (3) innovation fund?

There was a brief discussion relative to the proposed $30/credit hour fee that is being proposed.
E. Newberry stated the next step will be to prepare a report to faculty council. The next meeting of CAC/BSP is scheduled for April 4th at which time the proposal will be discussed further.

Meeting adjourned.