Charge: The CBT UC team has been asked by the Board of Governors and the Chancellor of the State University System of Florida to review two potential options for the evolution of the Joint College of Engineering: (a) maintain the joint college, or (b) form two colleges of engineering with differentiated programs. The consulting team is to collect a prescribed set of data regarding this important decision including missions, academics, financials, Title VI civil rights issues, and accreditation. We are also charged with presenting a review of the future trends in engineering at the national level, the workforce trends for engineers in Florida, and the current provision of qualified engineers from public and private institutions. The consulting team is not charged with making recommendations to the Board of Governors and Chancellor. For further details, please see RFP 2015-03 published by the Florida SUS.

Timeline: We are currently in a data-gathering phase. Our institutional research expert is gathering data from many Florida institutions. Our workforce economist is developing forecasts for needs of new engineers in various disciplines across Florida. Our ABET expert is analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of each model from an ABET perspective. We have interviewed the Office of Civil Rights to get a better understanding of their expectations from Title VI of the Civil Rights Act and the Fordice decision. We are conducting interviews with FAMU and FSU administrators, the Chancellor’s Office, and faculty, staff, students, alumni and the external advisory board for the Joint College of Engineering.

We plan to hold focus group meetings during the week of September 8, 2014 at the FAMU-FSU Joint College of Engineering. These meetings will allow us to gather data in an efficient manner. This data-gathering work will culminate in a draft document presenting the facts as we see them. The draft report is due November 19, 2014, and the final report is due by December 19, 2014.

Public Input: There will be an opportunity for public comment at a Board of Governors meeting. In addition, there may be open public forums held prior to the meeting.

Presentation: In early 2015, we will present the report to the Board of Governors and the Legislature. The decisions on which model to follow will be made by these groups on behalf of the people of Florida. Public comment will be taken during this process as well.