Molinaroli College of Engineering and Computing
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Self-Assessment of 2024-25 Plan

Exceeded the goal

- International partnerships: Develop an annual calendar for collaboration (& payments) with NUST Engineering
- Continue the 4 large DoD proposals, and build on them
- Compete aggressively for more presidential positions, focus on SC Nexus/SMR
- Implement the elements of the naming gift agreement, including the initiation of the Center for Industry Solutions (collaborate with VP for Economic Development)
- Identify and engage two more $1M+ prospects.
- Cultivate new relationships and opportunities (philanthropy, research, government, public/private partnership) to get a new building for CEC.
- *College was named the Molinaroli College of Engineering and Computing
- *Marketing and Branding initiatives with Cyberwoven, Additive. Environmental branding.
- *Center for Industry Solutions providing visual inspection solutions to industry in SC
- *Set sponsored awards of record of $69.3M.
- *Set development record of ~$35M
- *Set freshman record

Met the goal

- BS in industrial Engineering (Market to Fall-25 applicants)
- w/ DMSB: 1-yr MBA/MSBA w GPA >3.2. Sales courses.
- For each CEC major reduce complexity by dropping at least three prerequisites.
- Embed a mental health counselor in student services
- Increase NIH submissions. FY24/25 #props:14/15;funds YTD: $1.4M/$1.5M
- Submit multiple CAREER Proposals
- Fill the B2F, presidential, SRNL-assisted, and CEC (aero, nuclear and chemical) positions
- An Asst Dean for Fiscal Planning and Administration for CEC; redesign the org chart; redesign staffing and training; concierge USC HR; concierge USC Comms & marketing.
- *BA in Biomedical Engineering
- *Strategic Planning and Master Planning started.
- *Economic Development: 3 battery & Grid companies moving to Columbia to be close to MCEC.

Did not meet the goal

- BA in CS, & Masters in AI (Draft the curricula, study the competition)
- w/ Law: Identify, establish and promote a similarly attractive 4+1 between CEC and Law
- Roll out Industry consortia in composites, and in batteries; with Fraunhofer $ matches
- Develop a strategic internal budget model incentivizing growth, retention, productivity, and efficiency: Implement at least 3 elements of it; Develop a table for approximate 3 of hours per activity per week (e.g. 10 per course) for typical faculty activities, so everyone can contribute fully to their dept.

*: initiatives that were not listed on the plan for 24-25 but were undertaken.

2025-2026 Plan

Student success, teaching/program excellence

Attract and enroll high-quality students:

- Drive Brand Awareness
  - Leverage "Further, Faster-Together" brand story to highlight MCEC Mission, Vision and Values
  - Create and implement consistent visual identity
  - Showcase success stories, plan out social media campaign, revamp website
- Increase Enrollment
  - Develop and implement streamlined student communications, with consistent branded messaging
  - Develop and implement a transfer student recruitment campaign
  - Develop and implement a currently enrolled student campaign

Retain current students:

- For each CEC major reduce complexity by dropping at least three prerequisites.
- Design cross-MCEC courses through the Interprofessional Programs office:
  - Soft skills; systems analysis; common 101 material; lab skills; design thinking.
  - Engage industry partners to offer courses for us (e.g. Scout, Capgemini)
- Increase experiential opportunities:
  - Increase the number of MCEC-supported McNAIR Junior Fellows (summer researchers)
  - Establish paid internships at MCEC's Center for Industry Solutions.

Excellence in research/scholarship

- Create a new statewide Institute on Grid
- Build out the pilot line facility for Carolina Institute for Battery Innovation
- Work towards acquiring the SCRA building for McNAIR, Industrial Engineering, and data center
- Increase the number of MCEC-supported McNAIR Junior Fellows (summer researchers)

Sustainability of MCEC mission

Hiring

- Recruit and Hire: Continue the recruitment and hiring process for the 10 approved presidential hires, which include 5 Computer Science, 1 Electrical Engineering, 4 Industrial Engineering.
- Evaluate Faculty Workloads: Develop quantitative metrics for faculty/adjuncts workload.
- Enhance Hiring Process: Improve the internal hiring process by developing standard operating procedures and policies that are consistent across the college and with institutional guidelines.

With the recent naming gift, MCEC has begun the strategic planning process. This year we aim to:

- Finalize the Strategic Plan: Complete the strategic plan by the anniversary of the naming gift.
- Identify and Socialize Core Values: Clearly define our mission, vision, and core values. Ensure these are communicated and integrated into messages received by all faculty, staff, and students.
- Implement a Structured Process: Establish a structured implementation process that includes assigning ownership, tracking key performance indicators (KPIs), maintaining regular structured communication and meetings, and allowing for strategy adjustments as needed.

Organizational/Operational Enhancement

- Formalize a Restructured Budget: Continue to develop a restructured budget that promotes transparent, collaborative budgeting for the next fiscal year.
- Define Roles and Responsibilities: Collaborate with HR to clearly define roles and responsibilities for college staff, ensuring alignment with strategic growth initiatives.
- Enhance communications: Increase MCEC meetings to foster a more cohesive work environment.
- Optimize Operations: Process map all major operations within the college.

Gifts and philanthropy:

- Identify and engage two more $1M+ prospects.
- Cultivate new relationships and opportunities to implement the Engineering District Master Plan.