Dec. 10 APC Meeting Talking Points
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**MSNT is a valuable program at UW-Platteville**

1. Impact to UW-Platteville
   - MSNT provides unique education to students who seek careers in hi-tech industries or graduate programs with interdisciplinary requirements. Microsystems and Nanomaterials is a rapidly growing area in science and technology. It represents the technology of tomorrow and attracts attention to the College of EMS and the University.
   - Faculty members in MSNT since joining UWP have been awarded over $650,000 in external funding including two major NSF awards.
   - The Material Characterization and Nanofabrication lab hosts over $900,000 worth of equipment including a state-of-the-art Atomic Force Microscope (AFM) and Scanning Electron Microscope (SEM). It is a showcase lab for prospective students and their parents, regional industrial users, academic partners, and state administrators. It has been featured in various media representing the high education quality of UW-Platteville.
   - The lab supports users from six departments (EP, ME, Chemistry, Biology, Geography, and Industrial Studies) and two companies from the tri-state area. The Program also has made it possible to lease this facility to outside parties.
   - The faculty/staffing cost of the Program to the University is only one FTE faculty and 0.5 LTE staff. (Yan and Gokul are half MSNT and half Physics.) Here’s an interesting metric: in the year ‘12-‘13, Mechanical Engineering graduated 131. They have 15.5 FTE teaching here at UWP. 131/15.5 = 8.45. MSNT can have the same student/FTE ratio graduating just 8.45 students.
   - Currently there are nine students enrolled in the Microsystems and Nanomaterials Emphasis within EP, two students have declared the stand-alone MSNT major, and 15 students have declared the MSNT minor.

2. Impact to Wisconsin and surrounding states:
   - The MSNT program holds strategic importance to attract students in STEM fields to UW-Platteville for an undergraduate degree in engineering and nanomaterials science. (UW-Eau Claire has a Material Science program but is not an ABET accredited engineering program. They are currently proposing an engineering program. Our EP-MN program is an ABET accredited engineering program.)
   - The MSNT facility and faculty members are part of the Regional Materials Network that supports industrial and academic needs in material research and development across Wisconsin.
2. We have a viable plan to recruit students to MSNT:
   - The ‘reset’ in 2013 gave significant negative impact to the MSNT programs. Many people at UW-Platteville (faculty and students) are still under the impression that MSNT expired or is in disarray. We plan to
     - visit GE1000 to explain the three degree options to all engineering students
     - introduce the MSNT BS program in Chemistry 1000 class about double majoring MSNT with Chemistry
     - ask EMS Student Success Program to educate faculty and student peer advisors about the MSNT degree options
   - We will work on articulation with two-year colleges to increase the number of transfer students
   - We will continue our various outreach efforts (Women in Engineering Career Day, EMS-EXPO, Pioneer Preview, etc.)
3. We are optimistic about the MSNT program enrollment based on current MSNT class enrollment.

Take home message:
MSNT is a valuable program to this University. In the past 5 years, it has been reviewed and reworked to adapt to the need of the University and employers for students. We request APC to support the MSNT Programs in their current new configuration.