

# **ENGINEERING FACULTY COUNCIL**

## **Meeting Minutes- April 15, 2014 202 Hammond**

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### **1. Proposal to eliminate early entrance to major (ETM)**

Normal entrance to major is the end of the sophomore year. Early entrance to major happens at the end of freshmen year. Only 4% freshmen qualify for ETM. There are 180 students ETM sophomores this year using the previous criteria of 4 ETM courses and high GPA. Applying the new criteria of 6 ETM courses, there will be only 60 students qualified. The disadvantage is the heavy administration burden. There is a problem if the student changed the mind during sophomore year. The ETM students also have the risk that if the GPA drops, they will be denied to the major at the end of the sophomore year.

It might be a way to have a paragraph: if by the end of the freshman year, the student takes all the ETM required courses and has a GPA higher than say 3.5, the student is encouraged to contact the desired department for mentoring.

Early into major is still preferred in some cases. Benchmark to other major engineering universities might be helpful. However, student flexibility (geographic and academic) and student progress might be in conflict. There is especially a potential problem with other campus, which has a 2+2 schedule for students.

Unanimously approved by EFC members attending the meeting. Voting for this proposal will be later online.

### **2. Approval of minutes for the meeting of March 25, 2014**

Minutes posted on ANGEL

Approved Unanimously.

### **3. Updates from Undergraduate Studies Committee**

4 course (CE 411, EE 466, BE 469W, and EE 403W) proposals were approved without any issues.

Approved Unanimously.

### **4. Updates from Graduate Studies Committees**

Nothing to report.

## **5. Updates from Engineering Technology Committee: Ron Land**

Nothing to report.

## **6. Updates from Faculty Senate**

Report on March 18, 2014 Senate meeting (Amendment to last report):

1. General Education Report. There was a presentation by Marybeth Williams on the current status of the task force in charge of revising general education policies. There is extensive representation of all colleges, campuses, students, faculty on task force. Engineering Representation includes Maggie Slattery (BME, current co-chair of task force) and Andy Lau. Engineering faculty wishing to influence decision of task force are encouraged to go to <http://gened.psu.edu/>
2. Lunar Lion: There was a senate resolution in support of the lunar lion project. Here is a link to the overall project: <http://lunarlion.psu.edu/>. This goal is to have private organizations send a robot to the moon. Penn State is the only university led team.

Report on Upcoming April 29, 2014 meeting

1. Results from health care task force (recall the “Wellness Initiative?”) is on the agenda. Agenda will be posted by April 23 (with task force summary): <http://senate.psu.edu/agendas-records.html>
2. We will have an Engineering Caucus Meeting on April 25, 2015. EFC members and department faculty should contact their senators with any concerns before then.

## **7. Dean’s Report – Dean Atchley**

### Status of the Dean initiatives

Acceptance of the COE Graduate school fellowship will be known today.

COE REU was responded overwhelmingly.

Innovation grant RFA was out.

There will be calls for \$100k grants for instrument funds due middle July and available beginning of the semester.

There will be a solicitation on restructuring the Dean’s office. Functional budgets will be rolled out, which closely match to the strategic plans.

Updates from NSF:

1. NSF is willing to fund more CAREER awards.
2. Compliance to guidelines will be emphasized.
3. General funding for NSF is good.
4. NNIN: PSU enters the re-competition. There are two networks competing. In the end NSF decides to not to fund either. Both proposals have major flaws. The path forward could be solicitations for nodes, smaller networks in certain networks. PSU NNIN will have 18 months of running budget and NSF expects no gaps in funding.

Ideas for next years’ EFC:

1. Discussion on the efficacy of the Dean’s initiatives

2. Webpage for COE EFC