

ENGINEERING FACULTY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes- December 16, 2014 202 Hammond

Sven Schmitz, Igor Jovanovic, Esther Gomez, Aly Said, Conrad Tucker, Wang-Chien Lee, Catherine Harmonosky, Jean Landa Patel (visitor), Runkun Jiang, Terry Speicher, Peter Butler, Chris Masters, Megan Marshall, Rachel Fore

1. Approval of Minutes for the Meeting of November 18, 2014

- *Minutes posted on ANGEL. Small inaccuracies in the minutes were noted and will be corrected.*
- *Approved Unanimously.*

2. Updates from Undergraduate Studies Committee (Megan Marshall)

- *Met and made a few approvals: modification of prerequisites in I E 424 and I E 480W; modification of short title prerequisites, and description in I E 467.*
- *Approved Unanimously.*

3. Updates from Graduate Studies Committee (Wang-Chien Lee)

- *Reviewed 8 course proposals: I E 562, I E 582, EDSGN 548, C E 535, CSE 566, CSE 584, E SC 529, I E 575.*
- *Reviewed 1 program change (M Eng program in C E) and 1 program drop (M Eng in ENV E – now have only a professional MS).*
- *Approved Unanimously.*

Updates on the MS programs (1 yr) – Catherine Harmonosky

3 programs were considered on the Curricular Committee; there was a lengthy discussion on whether MS degrees can be completed in 1 year, especially pertaining to the scholarly paper. Comparison with peer institutions is a significant factor. Two non-thesis proposals were not approved (IE, ChemE). CSE proposal was approved. There was discussion on flexibility with students leaving if the paper is not finished. The other concern raised was that there was no clear sense of who the audience is. Acoustics had similar concerns as other programs. A flat fee of \$34,000 for the 1-yr professional program has been proposed (PSU continuing students have a 25% discount).

4. Updates from Engineering Technology Committee (Ron Land/Terry Speicher)

Nothing to report.

5. Updates from Faculty Senate (Peter Butler)

- *President Barron expressed solidarity with “Die In” protests because of vulnerability of students in the face of threats to their safety.*
- *PA senate passed new rule to increase extent of background checks for people with “significant interaction with children”; will include FBI digital finger printing*
- *Committee and rules: Appendix G from senate agenda: The senate will elect a faculty trustee in the same way as they do Senate Officers;*
- *Committees and rules: grant in aid: spouse can get immediate benefits; not need to wait for 2 years of employment. Senate voted down limit of 35 years old*
- *Presentation on Engaged scholarship. There is an extensive push for increased activity in this area.*
- *VPR Neil Sharkey gave a presentation of research. Slides will be sent out for posting on Angel.*

6. Dean’s Report (Catherine Harmonosky)

- *The Dean’s presentation “Strategy-driven Everything (5 yr plan)” has been summarized and discussed.*
- *A few searches are in progress for department heads; some positions have been recently filled.*
- *Each department was asked to provide their strategy; they have been combined into a joint COE strategy. Strategy is based on development, diversity, and communications. Six fundraising thrusts were identified. Four strategic objectives include education, research, service, and governance. Effort is made to align our strategy with PSU strategic goals. Enabling actions were defined to attain the goals.*

7. Constitution Draft (Jean Landa Pytel)

- *The Constitution enables faculty governance in the College. EFC is therefore the foremost faculty committee in CoE.*
- *The way business is done in CoE has changed and it is sometimes inconsistent with the constitution – especially concerning the use of electronic communications.*
- *Many editorial changes were made; major changes have been tracked.*
- *Some procedures we followed were never included in the Constitution.*
- *Several details of the proposed changes were discussed in more depth.*
- *A suggestion has been made to post the draft of the revised constitution on a public forum for comments.*

8. Other Business

Engineering Nominating Committee seeks candidates to run in elections for Senate and Graduate Council. All EFC members have been encouraged to seek volunteers.