

ENGINEERING FACULTY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes – January 20, 2015

202 Hammond

Present: Aly Said, Catherine Harmonosky, Chris Giebink, Christine Masters, Esther Gomez, Igor Jovanovic, Melik Demirel, Nanyin Zhang, Rachel Fore, Ronald Land, Runkun (Justin) Jiang, Sven Schmitz, Terry Speicher, Wang-Chien Lee, Zoubeida Ounaies

1. Approval of minutes for the meeting of December 16, 2015

- Minutes approved unanimously.

2. Updates from Undergraduate Studies Committee (Chris)

- Unanimously approved to add permanent course numbers for Nuclear Engineering 447 and 442.

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

- Proposal of Acoustic MS one-year non-thesis program will be submitted.
- Lori Long is on family leave, so the status of proposals submitted to her is currently unknown.

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

No update.

5. Updates from Faculty Senate (Peter Butler)

No senate meeting since last EFC meeting.

6. Dean's Report (Catherine Harmonosky)

- The proposals for non-thesis MS program from Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering and Chemical Engineering have been revised and resubmitted, and will go through the 2nd round review at the Jan 22 Graduate Council Curricular Review Committee meeting. The revised proposals addressed two major concerns in the previous submission. One was that it was not specified whether the paper could be completed off campus. The other was that the research project work should be spread out in all three semesters as opposed to only during the summer. The M.Eng. program proposal from Computer Engineering was approved.
- In addition to the MS program proposals from Industrial Engineering and Chemical Engineering, the M.Eng. program proposal from Civil Engineering went from EFC to the university level, and will go through the first-round review at the Jan. 22 GRC meeting.
- The proposal of merging CS and EE departments to a new school has been approved by the university. An implementation plan is being developed.

- The search committee of the frontier faculty lines has compiled a short list of candidates. Reference letters are being requested. Meetings with department heads to discuss these candidates will be held this week. Candidates will be invited for interviews late Jan. or early Feb.
- The ad for the department head search of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering has been placed. The search committee is compiling a list of candidates. Candidates screening is anticipated for mid Feb; Skype interviews will start late Feb and campus interviews will start early March.
- The chair of the department head search committee of Civil and Environmental Engineering will meet with Dean Elnashai to discuss the short list this week. Candidates will be brought to campus in Feb. or Mar.
- The new Director of Finance of COE, Susan Sampsell, started her position on Jan 12.
- An external committee completed a review of our Information Technology (IT) structure and functions in the college. The review report is being reviewed by Dean.
- A review of the fundraising activity was commissioned by PSU Advancement and it was done by the company GG & A.

7. COE Constitution (Sven Schmitz, Christine Masters, Ronald Land)

Proposed update on COE constitution:

- Add a section on the academic integrity committee.
- Expand the size of the committee so that there is representation for every department, but also shrink the number of people required to be present at the hearing so as to facilitate scheduling.
- Committee members at the hearing will include an undergraduate student member, a graduate student members, the committee chair (faculty member), and one faculty member/department head.

Suggested changes in the COE Constitution:

- Section 1.2, item j should be removed.
- Section 1.3, non-COE, non-UP faculty who teach engineering and engineering technology courses should not be extended membership in the ETC.
- Changing the name of the ETC to 'Commonwealth Engineering & Technology' may not be appropriate.

Suggested changes in the Bylaws:

- Section 4.1, the wording needs to be modified to clarify which review functions would reside with USC and which would reside with ETC.
- Section 5.1, the limit on consecutive terms of office should be deleted for ETC.

Suggested changes in Standing Rules:

- Section 2, it needs to be made clear that the agenda for College Faculty meetings will be distributed to all COE faculty members does mean that.
- Article II, section 1.3, including all non-COE faculty as members of ETC is not appropriate.
- The choice of chair of ETC should be left to the [s]elected ETC members.
- Leave the [s]election of ETC members to the discretion of the bodies that they represent.

- Article II, section 2, changes may not be necessary.
- Article IV, section 4.3, rewording is suggested for clarity.

Two suggested ways to vote on drafted changes to the Constitution:

- Scenario 1: changes are first discussed and voted at EFC, and then are voted by all faculty at COE.
- Scenario 2: Each EFC unit is in charge of explaining the drafted changes to the Constitution, collecting comments from their representative units, and vote will be conducted among units.

8. Other Business

- Discuss how to simplify the students hiring process at Feb. EFC meeting (Melik Demirel).