

Engineering Faculty Council

Meeting Minutes

February 24, 2015

11:00 a.m.

202 Hammond, Stavelly Conference Room

Present: Aly Said, Anthony Atchley, Catherine Harmonosky, Christine Masters, Esther Gomez, Howard Salis, Igor Jovanovic, Megan Marshall, Melik Demirel, Nanyin Zhang, Rachel Fore, Ronald Land, Runkun (Justin) Jiang, Terry Speicher, Wang-Chien Lee, Zoubeida Ounaies

1. Approval of minutes for the meeting of January 20, 2015
 - The minutes of the meeting of January 20, 2015 were unanimously approved.
2. Updates from Undergraduate Studies Committee (Megan Marshall)
 - Course change proposal (modification of prerequisites) for undergraduate course ME410 (heat transfer) has been approved. Math 251 is being removed from the prerequisites, and CMPSC 202 is being changed to CMPSC 201 in the prerequisites.
 - Minutes of the graduate study curricular review committee were unanimously approved.
3. Updates from Graduate Studies Committees (Wang-Chien Lee)
 - Two program change proposals for replacing the paper requirement with a capstone course as the culminating experience for the M.Eng. degree in Environmental Engineering and Aerospace Engineering have been approved.
 - The two program changes from the Graduate Studies Committee have been unanimously approved by EFC.
 - This proposal of ACS MS Non-Thesis program has been rejected by GS&R. Catherine will discuss concerns and suggest alternatives with the proposer.
4. Updates from Engineering Technology Committee (Ron Land/Terry Speicher)
 - No updates.
5. Updates from Faculty Senate (Peter Butler/ Igor Jovanovic)
 - March 31: will be the 2nd Penn State Symposium on Engaged Scholarship See: <http://www.engagedscholarship.psu.edu/events/>
 - There will be a 16th Annual Engagement Scholarship Consortium Conference on September 29-30
 - President Barron announced that the task force on sexual harassment is completed and the findings will be announced by the next senate meeting
 - Ann Taylor, Earth and Mineral Sciences, will head a group to look into ways to make AD policies more accessible to the average person. Initiated discussion to see what ideas might be best

- Revision to Goal Statement and Learning Objectives for General Education
 - Task Force Co-Chairs Mary Beth Williams, Janet Schulenberg, Maggie Slattery stood for questions
 - The report outlines key literacies and learning objectives for general education. They can be found here: <http://senate.psu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/13525/2014/06/012715record4pdf.pdf>
 - Basically, the Senate had some questions on literacies that are not required of all students, although they are included in other forms. Mentioned in the Senate are financial literacy and world language.
 - There was concern that addition of amendments to this document was not thoughtfully considered. The Senate voted to table this report and combine it with the full Gened Task force report in March. That way the Senate can see both together.
 - For more info on how the task force operates and the status of these reports, please see: <http://gened.psu.edu/>
- The Senate approved the informational report by the General Education Planning and Oversight Task Force: “Institutional Support and Resources for General Education.” This report outlines the need for administrative resources in support of general education and its implementation.

6. Dean’s Report (Catherine Harmonosky)

- COE will soon be starting an activity to develop career progression models for all non-tenure track faculty.
- For the first time, there is permanent budget for the engineering diversity area, working in a more deliberative manner to improve the diversity profile.
- COE has gone through the proposal for enrollment controls with the new line pass activities. Students who will be entering the university summer and fall, 2015 will be coming in with the new LionPath tracking system. For any enrollment controlled majors, this group of students will be given a binding cutoff GPA that they will have to meet in order to apply for a particular major two years later. The other difference with the current system is that these students will be able to apply to a major on a rolling basis. The proposal has been accepted by the Enrollment Management Committee.
- 120 prospective graduate students came for the graduate recruiting event 02/12-02/13.

7. CoE Constitution (Anthony Atchley/All)

- It is expected to put the proposed changes to COE Constitution to vote before the end of the spring semester.
- Dean Atchley will discuss with Jean Patel to incorporate proposed changes.
- No uniform process for the career progression for non-tenure system faculty. A proposal for guideline is currently being made. Dean Atchley calls for the involvement of EFC.

8. Requirements for Hiring Exceptional High School Students in Labs (Melik Demirel)

- Three background checks are required.
- The process is complicated, especially for students born outside of the US.
- The PI need to be with the high school students all the time in the lab.
- Personal emails are required for communications.

- The process needs to be repeated every year.

9. High Quality Advising for Graduate Students (Igor Jovanovic/All)

- Not discussed in detail.

10. Other Business

- Not discussed.