

Engineering Faculty Council

March 17, 2015

12:00 noon

202 Hammond, Stavely Conference Room

Present: Aly Said, Amr Elnashai, Blaine Prichard, Catherine Harmonosky, Christine Masters, Esther Gomez, Howard Salis, Igor Jovanovic, Megan Marshall, Nanyin Zhang, Ronald Land, Runkun (Justin) Jiang, Sven Schimtz, Terry Speicher, Wang-Chien Lee

1. Approval of minutes for the meeting of February 24, 2015
 - Unanimously approved.
2. Updates from Undergraduate Studies Committee (Megan Marshall)
 - The number of credits in the prescribed courses of two IST minors (ISASP and ISTIE) will be reduced by 1, to reflect the change in IST 210 from 4 credits to 3 credits.
 - In the program change of Biological Engineering, modifications were made to strengthen the culminating design experience required for ABET accreditation. There were also minor changes to incorporate flexibility of taking CE360 or ME 320.
 - The program change of ChemE includes requiring a safety course (ChE 452), adding a computational tools course (ChE 230), and replacing math requirement (replacing MATH 230 with MATH 231).
 - The net result of both program changes is a decrease in the credit requirement by 1 credit.
 - Recommendations of Undergraduate Studies Committee were unanimously approved.
3. Updates from Graduate Studies Committees (Wang-Chien Lee)
 - The new program change proposal for adding a one-year non-thesis residential track to the existing Master of Science degree in Acoustics was resubmitted to the Graduate Program Committee.
 - A new course in the Graduate Program in Acoustics (ACS 580) was proposed.
 - The Graduate Program Committee has approved both the program change and course change proposals.
 - EFC unanimously approved the recommendations from the Graduate Studies Committee.
4. Updates from Engineering Technology Committee (Ron Land/Terry Speicher)
 - No update.
5. Updates from Faculty Senate (Peter Butler/Igor Jovanovic)
 - There was no Senate meeting since the last EFC meeting.
 - Notes from Senate Council:
 - Concerning the issue of information security, there had been an external audit by federal government and the report by the consultant hired by PSU. Both gave an F for the information security.

- The core weakness is extreme decentralization. There are 84 IT units, and they are completely independent.
- Notes from Senate Subcommittee on Research Meeting.
 - There is a lot of interest to ramp up the industrial support.
 - There is a discussion on closing down centers.
 - There is a presentation on research ethics education.
 - The previous rule that graduate students are not allowed to TA for graduate-level courses has been removed.
 - Senate subcommittee on research has collected the statistics on how indirect costs are distributed to different units and different departments.

6. Dean's Report (Catherine Harmonosky/Amr Elnashai)

- 21 nominations for University Graduate Fellowship, 10 to award and 12 offers were made.
- 8 nominations for Bunton-Waller Assistantship, 5 to award and 5 offers were made.
- IPAC meeting is coming up next week.
- An ad hoc committee including both tenure- and non-tenure-track faculty members has been formed to examine the models and processes of reviewing and promoting non-tenure track faculty members.
- Faculty hiring is ongoing.
- The budget restructuring aims to have an internal realignment of the budgets with academic function, and to have a budget projection.
- Heads of administrative offices will submit plans of resources needed to support for the assumed departmental expansions.

7. Other Business

- Discussion on how to be a good graduate advisor.