

Engineering Faculty Council

Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2015

11:00 a.m.

202 Hammond, Stavely Conference Room

Present: Amr Elnashai, Blaine Prichard, Chris Giebink, Christine Masters, Nanyin Zhang, Peter Butler, Ronald Land, Runkun (Justin) Jiang, Sven Schmitz, Terry Speicher, Wang-Chien Lee, Zoubeida Ounaies

1. Approval of minutes for the meeting of March 17, 2015

Unanimously approved.

2. Updates from Faculty Senate (Peter Butler)

- Report by the president: Diversity and demographics, a topic the present addressed more fully at the Board of Trustees meetings on March 19-20. He considers this to be a moral imperative, a way to provide environmental richness, and a business model imperative. This was followed up by a report to the senate trustees on diversity on March 20, 2015: http://www.psu.edu/ur/2014/Pres_Report_3_20_2015.pdf
- Forensic Report on 21st Century Student Life Skills: In response to complex issues of student life including healthcare and safety. Eric Barron has also endorsed this report. Two schools of thought emerged:
 - Some senators endorsed codifying in the curriculum certain life skills. For example financial literacy, inter-and intra-cultural and global awareness. A suggestion was made to try to work these into Gen Ed course experiences; or an expanded first-year orientation
 - Others thought that these kinds of skills should not be a formal part of the curriculum, it is not the business of a university.
 - Faculty salary reports: <http://senate.psu.edu/senators/standing-committees/faculty-benefits/reports-and-resources/2013-2014-report-on-faculty-salaries/>
- Legislative reports: Revisions to Senate Policy 34-20 (Registration)
- Advisory Reports:
 - Report on Policy AD-77, Engaging in Outside Professional Activities (Conflict of Commitment).
 - Recommendation is to “Each College/Unit must promulgate its own set of Guidelines for the implementation of AD77.”
 - Grade report: averaged grade was approximately 2.8 in 1975, passed 3.0 in 2000, and now is 3.1.
- Future topics: GenEd revisions will be voted on in the next senate meeting. There are 6 parts to it. Can be found at: <http://gened.psu.edu/senate-reports/>

3. Dean's Report (Amr Elnashai)

Strategy implementation plan:

- Background of the strategic plan:
 - Started last year with new effort to refocus the implementation of strategic plan of the departments and the college.
 - Departments finished the plans in September 2013.
 - Amr worked with department heads and each department created a 6-page “strategy snapshot” whose goals were extracted from the original department strategic plans.
 - The 12 consistent documents as a result shaped the college's strategic plan.
- The next step was to create the implementation plan so that each of the 15 goals in the college has a set of imminent actions. A 3-person committee has been formed to work on the budget side to flesh out what resources needed.
- Amr asks everyone to dig into the plan and evaluate, add, or take out objectives. Emails went out on 04/13 to the top 50 alumni as well as all the committees, boards, faculty, and administrators.
- The plan is at the final stage. It represents what the college wants to do in five years to be presented to the provost and the president. It has four sections: strategies, implementation plan, hiring plan, and impact of the expansion of the college on the administrative side. A technical writer will finish it off to make it consistent and polished.

Hiring:

- 24 searches, 14 offers accepted.
- The acceptance rate varies significantly across departments.
- A hiring workshop will be held in June to prepare for next year.

REU:

- The REU program will continue this year. 50 students from the UP campus will be awarded.
- 50 students from commonwealth campuses will come to UP for six weeks this year.
- Business Experience for Undergraduates (BEU): COE students go to the business school for six weeks to learn how to build a business plan around an engineering program.

One year MS and MEng Program:

- 3300 applicants for MS and MEng degrees in the COE, the number is skewed to the EE program.
- 700-800 offers were made, and acceptance rate is 65%.

4. Update from Chair (Sven Schimtz)

- The draft of COE constitution will be picked up in the fall.
- Wang-Chien Lee will be on Sabbatical. He will step down as Chair of Graduate Studies and Research Committee. Ester Gomez will be the new Chair of GS&R.
- Sven will step down as Chair of EFC. Igor Jovanovic will be the new Chair of EFC.
- Chris Giebink was unanimously elected to be Vice Chair Elected.
- Blaine will replace Rachel as the undergraduate member.

5. Updates from Undergraduate Studies Committee (Chris Giebink)

- Course change proposal: modification of prerequisite for ENGR 350, proposed changes have been accepted. EFC unanimously approved the suggestion by the Undergraduate Studies Committee.

6. Updates from Graduate Studies & Research Committee (Wang-Chien Lee)

- Seven course change proposals and one program change proposal were reviewed. The committee recommended to accept all proposed changes. The committee's recommendation has been unanimously approved.

7. Updates from Engineering Technology Committee (Ron Land)

- Two program change proposals. EFC unanimously approve the proposed changes.

8. Other Business (Ron Land)

- EFC endorses the idea of specifying the admissibility for BS-ET graduates within the COE's new non-thesis Masters degrees.