

Engineering Faculty Council

Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2015

11:00 a.m.

202 Hammond, Stavely Conference Room

Present: Christine Masters, Chris Giebink, Esther Gomez, Arm Elnashai, Blaine Prichard, Douglas Wolfe, Terry Speicher, Zoubeida Ounaies, Peter Butler, Anthony Ashley, Harsha Garimella, Ronald Land

1. **Approval of minutes for the meeting of September 22, 2015**
Unanimously approved.

2. **Entry to Major Changes Briefing (Peter Butler, Christine Masters, Chris Giebink) – See Memo below**
 - New credit window requirements and GPA described
 - Petition for Engineering Faculty Council to assist with a subcommittee or entire Council by providing:
 - Pros and Cons for college
 - Suggested changes to increase benefits
 - List what other universities do to gain competitive advantage when attracting undergraduate students
 - Survey students, faculty, and administrators (January time frame)
 - Proposed 2-3 changes to Entry to Major Committee
 - Advantages provided by Entry to Major Committee:
 - Very good way to control enrollment numbers
 - Justify expansion
 - Uncertainty on enrollment minimized
 - Reduce student complaints regarding the lack of early entry to major
 - Disadvantages provided by Entry to Major Committee:
 - Significant change
 - Engineering Science & Mechanics: tools based broad discipline. Potential for fewer students
 - Is there a difficulty to switch back to another major? Policy not defined yet
 - Capability to provide major courses at the campuses: online courses proposed as a solution
 - Subcommittee creation proposed in the Undergraduate Committee

Memo - Review of Entrance to Major

Date: October 20, 2015

To: Engineering Faculty Council Planning Committee

From: Peter J. Butler, Associate Dean for Education, College of Engineering

Re: Review of Entrance to Major in the College of Engineering; Creation of an ETM review subcommittee

Dear Engineering Faculty Council Members,

The deans of COE are interested in soliciting your advice on whether the current entry to major (ETM) mechanisms best serve the interests of our students. A review of the mechanisms can be found at: <http://www.engr.psu.edu/AdvisingCenter/ETM/>.

Briefly, most majors now will have a credit window (40-59 credits earned at Penn State) during which students can select the major of their choice. Each major has a GPA cutoff that is in place largely to control enrollments to that major.

However, this mechanism may not be universal. Recognizing that Penn State is unique as a geographically dispersed university, it is nevertheless likely that other universities have other mechanism for matching student's interests to a major, which may be useful to consider adopting at Penn State. Certain ETM guidelines may be appealing to high achieving students thus providing these universities with a competitive advantage in recruiting.

The main aims of the subcommittee will be to answer the following questions:

- 1. What challenges does the current ETM process present to students, faculty, staff, and administrators?*
- 2. What benefits are associated with the flexible ETM process?*
- 3. Is there a proposed change to the ETM process that may lead to addressing the challenges and maintaining and increasing the benefits?*

In order to address these aims, the committee will be encouraged to:

- 1. Benchmark PSU ETM COE process against those of peer institutions and institutions with higher rankings than PSU COE*
- 2. Survey students, faculty, administrators, for departmental review of challenges to current ETM*
- 3. Propose 2-3 changes in ETM and assess pros and cons of implementation.*

The main deliverable will be a report to the Dean, presented during an EFC meeting, on the findings of the committee. The committee can be assured that the dean will carefully review the committee's findings and consider them for a proposal to the Vice President of undergraduate education.

We thank you in advance for your consideration of this important work.

3. Updates from Graduate Studies Committees (Esther Gomez)

- Two-faculty nomination approved,
- 16 course proposals for 1 year Masters (10 approved, 6 sent back for review due to not clear evaluation methods or lack of difference between already offered courses)
- New programs: 3 approved, 2 send back.
 - Masters of Engineering Leadership (not suitable for the College of Engineering)
 - Master on Biomedical Engineering (degree requirements not clear)
- One year Masters of Engineering future demand and resources discussed
- Dual degree title between Industrial Engineering and Humanities and Arts Design Program been studied
- No feedback requested from EFC

4. Updates from undergraduate Studies Committees (Chris Giebink)

Course Proposal Changes voted and approved: A E 494A Senior Honors Thesis Curricular Review

5. Updates from Engineering Technology Committee (Ron Land)

Nothing to report.

6. Updates from Faculty Senate (Doug Wolfe)

- Dean search for Law School
- Transition from Angel to Canvas approved
- Strategic plan: comments will be sent out
- Temple University professor unjustified arrest due to ITAR concerns sparked discussion on the protection offered by the University to faculty. Plan for faculty defense in case of potential ITAR irregularities discussed
- Undergraduate enrollment discussion (up to 250 in UP, 100 up in satellite campuses). There is a large growth in the number of international students
- Entrepreneurship minor close to approval
- PPO Savings vs standard PPO demand due to concerns that one of them might be eliminated. Both plans are in similar demand, and the case to phase one of them out is not substantiated

Legislative reports:

- Vote on entry to major requirements
- Repeating courses (3 times) to be voted on
- LionPath driven changes to be discussed

7. Dean's Report (Amr Elnashai)

- Blueprint for global preeminence in engineering (84 pages) document being finalized
- Blueprint summarizes hiring plan for next 5 years and linkage with University plan. 35 new faculty sought. The details have been moved to an appendix to reduce the size of the document
- Blueprint summarizes hiring plan for administration office. 25 new administrators sought. Details also moved to appendix
- Two pages of executive summary added: emphasized need for growth to maintain performance
- Document details space renovation, repurposing, and collaborator space creation. Funds requested for those activities
- Planned expansion of student body: 10% per year if new facilities are available
- Currently: no advertising for undergraduate students
- Meeting with provost, associate deans, and department heads scheduled for Nov. 12, 2015
- Paragraph to be added to reduce student body if support from the University is not allocated.
- Questions raised by EFC members:
 - Are there issues with other colleges?
 - Is there room for alliances in seeking university support?

8. Policy AD-77 Update: Engaging in Outside Activities (Anthony Atchley)

- Faculty would teach for another university, potentially having tenure at both universities
- Defines what type of activities need approval from the College
- Consulting beyond policy does not require approval from the Dean
- Visiting professor overseas typically must sign agreements with foreign universities:
 - Financial reimbursements involved
 - Requires proposal submission, paper publication with new foreign affiliation
- Questions to EFC:
 - What guidelines are needed?
 - What role does EFC takes to modify existent guidelines?

Links provided:

<http://senate.psu.edu/senators/agendas-records/march-17-2015-agenda/appendix-f/>

<http://guru.psu.edu/policies/AD77.html>

9. Other Business

None.