

# Engineering Faculty Council

## Meeting Minutes

**November 10, 2015 11:00 a.m.**

**228 Hammond**

Present: Amr Elnashai, Blaine Prichard, Terry Speicher, Chris Giebink, Christine Masters, Conrad Tucker, Doug Wolfe, Gary Gray, Jose Palacios, Nanyin Zhang, Peter Butler, Ronald Land, Zoubeida Ounaies

### Meeting Agenda

1. Approval of minutes for the meeting of October 20, 2015

Unanimously approved.

2. Updates from Undergraduate Studies Committee (Chris Giebink)

Nine course changes:

- Addition of long descriptions for bulletin for 6 courses: ME 315, ME 320, ME 325, ME 375, ME 452 and ME 460. Mainly wording suggestions and grammar changes.
- 2 courses with changes in prerequisite(s): ME 404 and ME 431.
- Add a permanent course number: AE 453
- Request for academic controls for EE.
  - Background: EE is the only major in the College that does not have academic enrollment controls. Students who cannot get accepted into other majors use EE as backup. These lead to graduation problems. It takes some 5 to 6 years to graduate. EE provided comprehensive and compelling data to support their suggestion for enrollment control. Minimum GPA is set to ensure compatibility.
- All recommendations anonymously approved.

3. Updates from Graduate Studies Committees (Peter Butler)

Three course proposals:

- AE 579 and IE 586 were approved by the GS&R committee. The recommendations by GS&R for these two course proposals were unanimously approved by EFC.
- BME 594 was returned to department for revision.

Four program proposals have been approved by the GS&R committee:

- ME: Master of Engineering in Engineering Leadership and Innovation Management (ELIM) – Approved.
- BME: Add a Non-thesis Master of Science Degree in Biomedical Engineering - Approved
- AE: Create a One-Year Master of Engineering Degree (M.Eng.) in Architectural Engineering - Approved
- CSE: Delivery of M. Eng. in Computer Science and Engineering at Penn State's Facility in Reston, Virginia - overall the committee was supportive of this proposal but it was not clear who would teach the courses.

Recommendations by the GS&R committee for all proposals have been unanimously approved.

4. Updates from Engineering Technology Committee (Ron Land)

Nothing to report.

#### 5. Updates from Faculty Senate (Doug Wolfe)

- Legislative report on revision of standing rules and procedures to allow comments from the Executive Vice President and Provost.
- Senate Committees on Faculty Affairs and Intra-university Relations: Discussed a trend that has been going on for years associated with the number of full-time faculty members, including tenure-track and non-tenure-track. From 2004 to 2010, full-time faculty number increased from 4700 to 6000; however, the number and percentage of tenure-track faculty have not kept pace: 25% reduction in the past 18 years in promotion of full-time faculty as standing appointment at Penn State. This is affecting standing members of committee's job responsibilities that the tenure-track faculty takes on before tenure. Report on this issue has been created long time ago, but no action has been taken. Significant reduction of tenure track faculty and increase of fixed-term faculty.
- Forensic report regarding recommendation for a joint committee on first-year students' well-being and safety. Recommend a university-wide course for freshmen, such as on sexual assault, etc. There will be an informational report discussing the possibility of requiring a course for all first-year students on issues such as well-being and safety, with an emphasis on building positive relationships and sexual misconduct. No course has actually been approved; this is just a recommendation from the joint committee.
- Legislative report with regards to amendment to accommodate unit representation while providing flexibilities of committees on rules to retain, where appropriate, seasoned senators who have served either 6 or more consecutive years. With reduction of total number of senators down to 200, there is a desire to maintain some of the historical knowledge of some of these committees. A proposal has been presented to increase the number of senators serving 7 consecutive terms as a committee member or 4 consecutive terms as a committee chair; this requires two-thirds majority approval of the Senate.
- Senate Committee on Committees and Rules has a revision of standing rules for faculty of athletics for the University Park. They started to bring in faculty members to serve as their mentors on the faculty teams. This has been well received; now all 31 athletic programs have a faculty mentor or faculty advisor. They would like to have some overlap between the jobs and responsibilities as a mentor and extend the term from the current four years to five years.
- Another legislative report is about Ombudsperson-Elect: the term is 4 years with no term limit. The Ombudsperson-Elect shall have no formal role or responsibility, other than to acquire a thorough understanding of university policies that pertain to faculty rights and responsibilities and promotion and tenure, and other aspects of the position.
- Legislative and Curricular Affairs: acquisition of credits described in Faculty Senate Policy 42-00 to include statement about transfer credits (Policy 42-82). It eliminates 800-level course credits and replace them with 400-level.
- Senate Policy 54-90 (Academic Renewal): side effect of the implementation of LionPath. Will eliminate the number of late drop credits. Reset the number as provided by Policies 34-89.
- Revision of tenure clock at the College of Medicine. Difficulty keeping some of their good talents primarily because they are not competitive compared with the other Big 10 universities. They have already adjusted the tenure clock to align with the decrease of the likelihood of obtaining large grant by the fifth year. As a result, they are not able to retain some of their highly qualified faculty. They would like to change the requirement associated with the tenure clock for any age grant past the fifth year as well as extending tenure review past the 8<sup>th</sup> year to align better with the Big Ten schools and help retain faculty.

- Informational report from the communication sub-committee of 2013-2014 Health Care Task Force Report. Will send more info after reviewing the report.
- Engaged Scholarship includes undergraduate research, internship, study abroad, study away, embedded travel courses, service learning, community-based learning, capstone courses with an out-of-class component, clinical experiences, and self-directed engagement.

#### 6. Dean's Report (Amr Elnashai)

- Report on non-tenure track career path and progression models have been taken to the Provost. However, Faculty Senate has taken on this issue and we cannot progress independently. Report was also submitted the chair of Faculty Senate.
- Submitted the blueprint for College of Engineering to Provost. Request \$6.8M permanent allocation over the next five years to support faculty expansion; \$20-40M temporary funds for startup and refurbishment. We will increase undergraduate enrollment by 10% over 5 years, leading to \$18M increase in tuition per year for the university. We would like to increase MS enrollment from the current 100 to 400 students in five years, resulting in another \$19M per year to share with the university.
- Alliance with Texas A&M University in energy and food. Met with key personnel at federal agencies and companies including NSF, USAID, NIFA, two major companies as contractors working with USAID, and Office of Science and Technology Policy. Agreed to have small number of students to have a joint REU program.

#### 7. Other Business

- Igor Jovanovic, the current EFC Chair, announced his departure from Penn State University effective December 31, 2015. The current EFC Vice-Chair Chris Giebink will assume the responsibility of EFC Chair from January 1, 2016.