

Engineering Faculty Council

Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2016

11:00 a.m.

101F Hammond Building (large conference room in Dean's Suite)

Present: Butler, Derby, Atchley, Giebink, Kulkarni, Masters, Obonyo, Palacios, Parkinson, Pang, Said, Sallis, Tan, Wolfe

1. Approval of minutes for the meeting of August 23, 2016
Unanimously approved.
2. Dean's Report (Atchley)
 - Upcoming faculty/staff town halls. Will discuss results of the recent engaged climate survey.
 - Implementation of new process involving a college-level committee for fixed-term promotion decisions.
 - COE strategic plan completed and sent to University; substantial alignment with University strategic plan.
 - Peter Butler delivered a report on entrance to major considerations, including benchmarking of peer institutions and consideration of the impact resulting from potential changes. Next steps will involve following up with University-level offices (e.g. admissions) for their reaction to proposed changes.
 - Discussion regarding the voluntary retirement program put out by the university. Considered problematic for COE, with ~80 faculty eligible out of 262 total potentially leaving a large personnel gap; additionally, money saved is not retained by the college. COE will opt to stay with current published guidelines regarding early retirement.
3. Updates from Undergraduate Studies Committee (Chris Giebink) – no items to report.
4. Updates from Graduate Studies Committees (Esther Gomez) – no items to report.
 - Discussion regarding move by the Graduate School to revise the definitions between 500 and 800-level courses, essentially the distinction between courses for research and professional degrees. Could have significant ramifications for the college; target date for a vote is scheduled on Oct. 20th by the Graduate Council Joint Curricular Committee
5. Updates from Engineering Technology Committee (Engr Tech Chair)
None.
6. Updates from Faculty Senate (Doug Wolfe)
Updates from meeting on Sept. 6; next meeting is Oct. 18.
Items of discussion:
 - Continuing efforts to correct LionPath problems.
 - Discussion over making better utilization of the medical center in Hershey.
 - Faculty Affairs committee is examining changes to titles.
 - Efforts aimed at simplifying/combining compliance training for new hires.
 - Student panel presented on approaches for more effective faculty engagement in diversity efforts.
 - Updates on proposal by UPUA for smoke-free University Park Campus.
7. Other Business