

Engineering Faculty Council

Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2017

11:00 a.m.

202 Hammond Building (Stavelly conference room)

Present: Giebink, Masters, Stoffels, Atchley, Butler, Said, Gray, Obonyo, Hayes, Elliott, Clements, Rasam

1. Approval of minutes for the meeting of Sept. 26, 2017

>>Unanimously approved.

2. Dean's Report (Anthony Atchley)

- Town hall coming up at Hintz Alumni Center on Thursday 10/26
- Old main has agreed to fund a master plan for COE space
- COE currently has ~750K ft², goal is to increase it to 1M ft²; certain amount intended to house a future ERC

3. Updates from Undergraduate Studies Committee (Gary Gray).

Two course changes, one program change.

- Changes:
 - IE 305 – Removal of MatSE 259 as a pre-req.
 - IE 425 – Removal of co-req IE 405
 - Program changes to IE – Remove CompSci 202, expand the list of non-major elective options for students, and restrict technical electives to courses only offered by IE to better satisfy ABET requirements.

>>Unanimously approved.

4. Updates from Graduate Studies Committees.

- No course additions/changes to discuss
- Obonyo communicated a need for more members to review course proposals
- Stoffels and Parkinson noted that there has been little communication within the existing committee thus far in the semester

5. Updates from Engineering Technology Committee

- Email prior to EFC meeting suggested that Engineering Technology Committee would be updating on curricular changes for EMET and General Engineering programs but no members were present at the meeting
- No items to report

6. Updates from Faculty Senate (Doug Wolfe)

- Legislative reports:
 1. Revision to the ByLaws for election to senate. A situation arose after the 2017 senate election wherein a faculty member who was newly elected to a 4 year term, resigned

before the senate term started and questions arose as to whether the alternate from the unit should fill the vacancy or whether a new election was necessary. The legislation is intended to clarify the succession of unit senators.

2. Update Senate Policies to Replace/Remove eLion/IBIS. Implementation of LionPath has replaced the institutional student information systems and its eLion interface. Legislation is to revise the language in Senate policy 48-30 to eliminate reference to the legacy eLion system.

3. Revision to ByLaws, changing “The Senate” to “Elected senators” who elect annually a Chair-Elect and a Secretary from among faculty members who are serving as elected faculty senate in the current year. The unintended consequence of designating “The Senate” as a whole for electing senate officers is that in any election in which the margin of victory is under 10% may not enjoy the majority support of the elected senate since the senate can have up to 10% unelected (ex-officio and appointed) administrators. The margin of victory in a recent election for chair elect was just one vote. The legislation is designed to ensure the senate chair has the majority support of the elected faculty senators.

- Advisory/consultative reports:

1. Recommendation that Penn State University be smoke free and tobacco free in its entirety. Recommendations are outline in the Smoke Free/Tobacco Free Task Force for all 24 Penn State campuses. The plan is available at http://www.psu.edu/ur/newsdocuments/SFTF_Report.pdf

2. Endorsement of Deferred Rush for Fraternities and Sororities. The recommendation is that university administration continue efforts to defer recruitment for fraternity and sorority membership to “Full-time enrolled students who have earned 14 credit hours at Penn State and meet a minimum 2.5 GPA are eligible to participate. The report was approved by student life committee 10-1.

3. Dissolution of the Facilities Planning Advisory Board. There are more effective and faster ways for faculty to provide input into facilities decisions.

- Informational reports:

1. Presentation. Highmark Blue Shield ends 12/31/17 and Aetna will be the new provider 1/1/18. HR has setup a website (<http://openrollment.psu.edu>) to help explain all of the healthcare plan options for the coming year which also includes an FAQ page. (<http://openrollment.psu.edu/faqs-aetna-and-cvscaremark/>).

2. Ombudsperson Report for the 2016-2017

3. In an effort to be more transparent. An overview of the facilities and Administrative Rate Distribution by Colleges, Administrative University and Commonwealth Campuses.

7. Other Business

- Proposal in works for EDSN multi-disciplinary capstone course involving multiple COE departments. 85% of EDSN capstones already involve multiple departments, this change is simply a formal acknowledgment that will help facilitate further interdisciplinary projects in the future.
- Motion by Stoffels to add updates from Grad Council as a permanent item on the EFC agenda.