

## **ENGINEERING FACULTY COUNCIL, April 6, 2021 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Meeting Minutes – Rob Kunz Secretary.

Zoom (all materials in Box)

Welcome by Jeff – including the new members. This is a transition meeting, includes current and new members (don't vote today - official start in August). Jeff built this list and we went through introductions on Zoom:

### **Officers**

1. Jeff Chiampi, Chair
2. Shelley Stoffels, Immediate Past
3. Puneet Singla, Vice Chair
4. Rob Kunz, Secretary

### **Administrative Support**

1. Deb King

### **Current Members**

1. Jeff Catchmark
2. Somayeh Asadi
3. Lance Lian
4. Antonios Armaou
5. Robert Collins
6. Swaroop Ghosh
7. Alok Sinha
8. Gary Gray
9. Ramakrishna Rajagopalan
10. Bo Cheng
11. Saurabh Basu
12. Will Walters
13. Mehdi Kiani
14. Nick Meisel

### **Current Student Members**

1. Aryan Modi
2. Belinda Yemurai
3. Aaryan Oberoi

### **Administrative Members**

1. Anthony Atchley
2. Peter Butler
3. Tonya Peeples
4. Christine Masters

### **Incoming Members**

1. Rob Leicht
2. Lucas Passmore
3. Thomas Skibinski
4. Stephanie Butler Velegol

1. Approval of minutes for the meeting of March 9, 2020 – Peter B noticed an error in the Grad admission numbers that were reported last time, so he sent to Rob K – these are updated here (and in the archived 03/09/21 minutes):

Grad admission numbers from last time corrected here:

FA 2020: App/admit/Acc: 3847/730/206

FA 2021: App/Adm/Acc: 3578/821/283

Minutes approved.

2. Chair Report – Jeff Chiampi: Elections: Rob Kunz only nomination for Secretary – unanimously voted in. Antonios Armaou only nomination for Vice-chair – unanimously voted in.
3. Deans Report – Peter Butler – (see Appendix). Numerous discussions regarding Vaccine requirements. Decided that Exec committee would ask for clarification directly to Kelly Wolgast - Peter B suggestion).
4. Update from Undergraduate Studies Committee - Gary Gray -
  - Nothing to report
5. Update from Graduate Studies Committee – Mehdi Kiani
  - AMD 500 new course proposal. Approved.
  - EE 586 new course proposal. Approved.
  - ESC 521 change course proposal. Approved.
  - ESC 522 change course proposal. Approved.
  - ME 581 change course proposal. Approved.
6. Update from Engineering Technology Committee - Ram Rajagopalan
  - No proposals at this time
7. Update from Faculty Equity and Inclusion Committee – Shelly Stoffels
  - SS: Faculty equity and inclusion have not had a meeting, just our ad hoc committee, but since we had set up this committee there's a larger group of faculty in the College, who are volunteering with the excellence and equity initiative including the members of this committee were invited. We are working on an equity Action Plan and one aspect of that action plan will be specifically focused on faculty including recruitment retention onboarding. Numerous small group conversations that faculty signed up for and Shelly is still having some individual conversations for faculty who didn't couldn't or didn't want to participate in a group conversation, so if any one of you weren't able to participate or have something you would like to add. Shelly request to please send her an email and she'll try to find a time over the next few days, where we can talk are, if you don't want it aren't comfortable talking to me. The other facilitators are willing to have an individual conversation as well and we'll have a draft of the Faculty portion of the equity Action Plan soon, and I will be reaching out again to the Faculty volunteers and the equity area for feedback on that.
  - Anthony A has been leading P&T guidelines effort so if he has a couple minutes to give us an update on that. AA: First I want to thank those Members of the UFC who are rolling off their terms, thank you for your participation UFC is a critical governance body of the College, and we appreciate your service. So what i'm going to say in the next couple minutes is very tenure

track Faculty centric but, once we are finished with that, the next thing on the list is to revisit our professional track faculty criteria and guidelines. So where are we, you may recall that we had shared a draft with the EFC pre Covid a while back, and where we are now is in the phase of getting feedback from faculty so we had a conversation with Keith Gilliard who's one of the senior mentors who works in the office of educational equity and is also a distinguished professor of English, I think, about how do you ask faculty how they want to be assigned to groups right, you can imagine that there are a lot of different ways you could do it being sensitive to all sorts of social issues. His recommendation was to assign people by their academic rank, quasi-randomly - he said don't assign people who you know have a conflict, but more or less just assign people by rank don't worry about subdividing two more finally that. So we set up a dozen different team sites for the following groups, so we had have one for the Dean and associate Dean, one for department heads, one for current and recent members of the College P&T committee, we have one for current and recent members of all the department P&T committees. (I should add, by the way, that there is a another faculty forum on April 22 about P&T - that I think wasn't on Peters list - I'm going to be hosting that I'll put the link in the chat. So we had about 40 or so faculty members who had RSVPed to attend, so we took that list and assigned by academic rank and then for all the other tenure system faculty who have tenure home in the College of Engineering. We sent an email, asking them if they wanted to participate in the process and be assigned to a team's group. Then we took the results from that and assigned additional teams, one for assistant to for associate just because of the number of people who had replied, and one for full professors. So everyone, whether they remember it or not, should have received an invitation to participate in this one way or the other, if you feel like you missed it, let me know and we can go back and check our list So what are we asking people to do? We posted a draft set of criteria. With a preamble a description of expectations for faculty. Essentially, one that we want our faculty members to be excellent, and that the hallmark of their excellence is the impact of their activities. So the expectations are in one part of the document, and then there is a part that I left blank because I want people to tell me how they would assess other faculty members. We have a P&T dossier, which is just a list. SRTE values and so many published papers and so much money. You need to explain what your filter is how do you correlate a certain student feedback, a certain number of publications, a certain amount of money if that's what you're going to use, we're not suggesting that but if that's what you're going to use. How do you correlate that with an assessment someone's performance - and this is not an easy thing to do, you know I have ideas, but this is not a simple thing to do, and I will say that participation so far has been relatively light, but we've gotten some really good comments from people that I think will improve what

we're doing so, the next step is, starting next week or week after, we're going to set up either 8 or 10 small group focus sessions - we will meet with people in smaller groups and hear what they really had to say and they can give us feedback verbally rather than through some team site and then on April 22, as I mentioned, there is the faculty forum – RSVP to Bre Robinson, Justin's Executive Assistant - it's not too late. So the goal is through that forum and the small focus groups I'll be able to put together a good draft, and then do another round of socialization and then start to move it through the final approval process.

8. Update from Faculty Senate – Alok Sinha
  - Nothing to report
9. Update from Graduate Council - Bo Cheng - During the last meeting the graduate council voted on and passed a number of policies on the professional Masters degrees and also voted to pass a resolution in support of the continuation of alternative grading for the graduate students in Spring 2021 if needed.
10. Other business – none

## Appendix – Dean’s report – Peter Butler

### University announcements

- Transition to in-person teaching for the fall.
  - There is a process being developed to identify students who are out of country and won't be able to return. Mostly from China
    - Developing world campus (remote asynchronous) courses for them.
- Undergraduate admissions
  - Applications and accepts generally up at UP
    - Uncertainly around common ap; and test optional
      - More students are deferring decisions
  - For COE. UG admissions for UP
    - FA 2019: App/Adm/Acc. 14157/8003/1071
    - FA 2020: App/Adm/Acc. 13846/8984/1299
    - FA 2021: App/Adm/Acc. 15518/9872/947
- COE. Grad admissions
  - FA 2020: App/Adm/Acc. 3891/989/349 (Acc: 85 M, 74 PhD)
  - FA 2021: App/Adm/Acc. 3770/1006/449 (Acc 141 M, 101 PhD)
- Next wellness day: Wed, April 7 (tomorrow) Physical And Environmental Wellness: <https://wellnessdays.psu.edu/spring/physical-environmental/>
- Commencement
  - May 7 @ 6 pm
  - In person event in Beaver Stadium
    - No walking;
    - 1 hour
    - 1 student + 2 guests
    - Unsure about faculty at large and dept heads
  - Depts. can have in person events, with COVID restrictions
    - E.g. outdoor tent, physical distancing, masks, no food

### COE

- Faculty Forums:
  - **Equity Action Plan and Faculty Advancement**  
Feb. 17, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.  
Tonya Peeples, Anthony Atchley
  - **Faculty Promotion and Advancement**  
April 22, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.  
Anthony Atchley
  - **Undergraduate Student Success in the First Two Years**  
March 25, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.  
Peter Butler
  - **Graduate Programs**  
**Growth**  
May 27, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.  
George Lesieutre