

MEETING MINUTES

Engineering Faculty Council

Date: September 19th, 2023

Time: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Location: Zoom

Attendees: Stephanie Velegol, Robert Leicht, Thomas Skibinski, Tracey Carbonetto, Cibin Raj, Keefe Manning, Rebecca Passonneau, Constantino Lagoa, Lucas Passmore, Nathaniel Bohna, Qiushi Chen, Sachin Gore, Amanda Johnsen, Samia Suliman, Spencer Szczesny, Susan Stewart, Abrar UI Karim, Tonya Peeples, Shelley Stoffels, Eric Donnell, Vijaykrishnan Narayanan, Enrique Gomez, Robert Rabb, Christine Masters, Ivan Esparragoza, Sarah Zappe, Amy Corbett, Lisa Petrine

Summary:

1. Chair Stephanie Velegol called the meeting to order and asked for approval to record – Approved.
2. Stephanie asked for approval of the meeting minutes from the August 23rd, 2023, meeting. A motion was made by Samia Suliman to approve and seconded by Keefe Manning.
3. Chair's Report – Stephanie Velegol:
 - Stephanie indicated that at this time all EFC members should have access to the Teams channel; anyone having difficulty accessing Teams should contact Amy Corbett.
 - Stephanie asked for feedback on the Reporting Out slide generated from the 8/23 meeting aiming to raise awareness of the council and its initiatives. There was consensus to continue generating the Reporting Out slide, moving forward with the initiative, and sending out the file to the faculty listserv.
 - Stephanie reported on the continuing Dean's search indicating that there is a list of robust candidates.
4. Dean's Report – Tonya Peeples:
 - Tonya commented on the US News & World Report University Rankings released earlier. Penn State continues to improve its engineering reputation and institutional ranking.
 - Tonya stated that the university continues to focus on administrative efficiency with a task force formed to address attrition, budgetary issues, optimization, and finance. CoE is looking at other units' model for guidance.
 - Tonya mentioned that the faculty workload continues to be addressed by Senate and administration allowing engineering faculty to maintain its reputation returning to true teaching, research and service while being mindful of capacity and economics.
 - Curricular activities include the implementation of a professional master's degree in Comp Sci possibly incorporating AI and targeting current and future adult learners.
 - Tonya concluded with the continued efforts in scholarship and endowment fundraising, student success, academic collaboration, the budget, and writing especially as it relates to interfaces between, for example, science and engineering.
 - Tonya answered a question as to why department chair searches have not started responding that these will ensue once the dean is named. Tonya responded to a question concerning the development of academic programs and with that are other programs being sunset to ensure that student needs are met through proper faculty staffing. Tonya responded that the plans will all be taken into consideration.
5. Associate and Assistant Deans:
 - Enrique Gomez- no report.

- Rob Rabb- responded to mention of rankings informing the council that he reaches out to all faculty program chairs congratulating them on a job well done. Rob mentioned that there is emphasis on the workflow for course proposals making the process more efficient avoid.
 - Eric Donnell- mentioned Graduate Student Award nominations are due by Sept.29th; there has been an increased effort in regional recruiting and requested itinerary ideas to consider (Stephanie Bachman), research continues to be very active with 150 pre-awards made to date.
 - Vijaykrishnan Narayanan- commented on the planned AI week as part of the spring showcase. CoE will be participating. There are some planned external and internal sessions coming up- How to Engage Policymakers with regards to AI in September, Tech Commercialization October 25th; global partnerships are being considered in a different light with value collaboration and useful articulation. Penn State will be mindful of the rankings of its international partners and subsequent consequences when issuing an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) especially with universities from India. Robb R. mentioned that CoE offers of reduced tuition to international students (as part of these agreements) do not make sense.
 - Sarah Zappe- discussed some of the offerings from the Leonard Center including the popular Mental Health First Aid Workshop scheduled for December 14th through the 19th; there remains possible available seats. A teaching and learning showcase with CoE and Eberly is scheduled for finals week.
 - Ivan Esparragoza- ABET interim visit scheduled for October 1st through 3rd; evaluators will be visiting the Comp Sci department.
6. Undergraduate Studies Committee – Lucas Passmore
- There are numerous course proposals. The following programs and courses are ready to move forward (data on Teams): CE 342, 448, IE 448, NUCE 480, EMET 326, 403, 440 – Curricular/Prerequisite Changes Proposed
Approved via electronic vote - (100% Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain)
 - There was a lengthy discussion concerning the Millennium Scholars Summer, First Year, and Second Year Seminar. The course content favored approval; there were questions or concerns as to what type of elective these courses represent (REU, service credit, SWE) and the honors credits. Concerns continued as to whether this credit would put the students over the 19-credit limit and who would pay for the extra credit. This creates a “pay to play” inequity that needs to be addressed. These students would be part of the Presidential Leadership Academy and therefore, entitled to take more than 19 credits. There should be more consideration in adding credits to the degree requirements. Suggested options were discussed such as giving credit, converting credits, internships (that count), and micro-credentials. Lucas summarized the discussion and will take the points made to the UGR committee and MSP.
 - There was some discussion surrounding NUC 480, a course designed for non-NUCE enrolled in MS or Meng NUCE. Amanda explained the format.

7. Graduate Studies and Research Committee – Keefe Manning

- The following courses are ready to move forward (data on Teams):

EDI 550 - changed from EDSGN –Approved via electronic vote - (100% Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain)

EDI 597 – changed from EDSGN - Approved via electronic vote - (100% Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain)

EDI 582 – changed from EDSGN- Approved via electronic vote - (100% Yes; 0 No; 0 Abstain)

8. FEI Committee – Spencer Szczesny

- The FEI committee needs additional members. Four EFC members and 2 Dean’s Appointees typically make up this committee. If any EFC members are interested, please see Stephanie/Spencer

9. Grad Council- Susan Stewart

- Susan mentioned a white paper focused on the culminating experience in publishing research; this paper will have a dual title. Grad Council has its first upcoming meeting. Susan will report back.

10. Faculty Senate- Somia

- Senate is working with enrollment management and recruitment of first-generation and underrepresented/disadvantaged students in light of the Supreme Court decision.
- Senate mentioned that online courses range from 9% to 23% per unit. PSU offers three doctoral degrees with a PhD in Engr offered on line.
- Somia reported that 1000 students from community colleges transfer to PSU each year; Senate working on updating and implementing policy with recommendations on articulation.

11. New Business – Stephanie

- No new business.

12. Meeting adjourned at 12:57 PM

Meeting Minutes prepared by: Tracey A Carbonetto

Tracey Carbonetto, Secretary

From Samia A Suliman To Everyone:

Graduate council preparing report on impact of budget model on research.

11:35:10 From Vijaykrishnan Narayanan To Everyone:

ai.psu.edu is the Penn State AI webpage

11:41:15 From Sarah Zappe To Everyone:

Backward

Design

Workshop

Link:

https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cZv96Ensx1f4XTo

11:41:48 From Sarah Zappe To Everyone:

KEEN

Workshops

registration

link:

https://pennstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_agbPJ9Kj1brFKUS

11:42:24 From Sarah Zappe To Everyone:

Mental Health First Aid Dates: December 14 OR December 19. They are full day workshops, but people only need to attend one date. If interested, e-mail me at ser163@psu.edu.

nly Second-Year students participating in the Millennium Scholars Program will be enrolled."

12:02:11 From Shelley Marie Stoffels To Everyone:

Reacted to "in the proposal, "on..." with 👍

12:02:45 From Samia A Suliman To Everyone:

Reacted to "in the proposal, "on..." with 👍

12:05:14 From Shelley Marie Stoffels To Everyone:

Perhaps relevant for framing of question: MSP covers all tuition--so will they cover any 19+ tuition, too?

12:07:43 From Shelley Marie Stoffels To Everyone:

If they are hoping to offer it in the coming spring semester, holding it back a month would prevent that.

12:09:46 From Tonya L. Peeples To Everyone:

Neeli wants to change the funding structure of MSP. I don't know if it will stay fully funded. The engineering contribution to the scholarship is \$10K per year per scholar.

12:11:18 From Shelley Marie Stoffels To Everyone:

Or are they trying to show on the students' transcripts work they are already doing/requiring off-record?

12:11:21 From Spencer Szczesny To Everyone:

Converting the credit to a micro-credential could be a good option

12:12:39 From Shelley Marie Stoffels To Everyone:

Currently listed to offer in Spring: ENGR 290 - Millennium Scholars Professional Development Seminar

12:18:35 From Spencer Szczesny To Everyone:

I agree that they should get the feedback somehow but maybe not through the course approval process

12:19:32 From Robert Rabb To Everyone:

MSP has a Steering Cmte on Thu. Enrique or I can bring it up there.

12:19:41 From Shelley Marie Stoffels To Everyone:

Reacted to "MSP has a Steering C..." with 👍