

MEETING MINUTES

Engineering Faculty Council

Date: February 25th, 2025

Time: 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Location: Zoom

Attendees: See Teams for official Attendance Record

Stephanie Velegol, Tracey Carbonetto, Cibir Raj, Lucas Passmore, Sachin Gore, Amanda Johnsen, Robert Rabb, Ivan Esparragoza, Amy Corbett, Christine Masters, Brad Sottile, Richard Mistrick, Seong Kim, Gary Gray, Gregory Huff, Susan Stewart, Matt Zerphy, Thomas Skibinski, Nathaniel Bohna, Shelley Stoffels, Yun Jing, Christian Roach, Rob Rabb, Stephanie Cutler, Vijaykrishnan Narayanan, Keefe Manning, Seong Kim, Constantino Lagoa, Jared Butler, Tonya Peebles, Faculty Senators (guests) : Jason Moore, Aida Ebrahimi, Vikash Gayah, Jay Martin

Summary:

- Chair Thomas Skibinski called the meeting to order and asked for approval to record – Approved.
- Tom asked for approval of the meeting minutes from January 28th, 2025. A motion was made by Brad to approve and seconded by Tracey.

Chair's Report – Tom Skibinski

- Lucas announced the new Grad Council representatives: Greg Huff (EE/CS) and Nilanjan Ray Chaudhuri (EE/CSE) begin their 3-year term joining three members and two alternates. Newly elected Faculty Senators will be announced at the next meeting. An election for an ombudsperson to join Rebecca Passonneau (rjp49) and Rachel Brennan (rab44) will begin shortly.

Dean's Report –

- Tonya Peebles provided discussion on academic freedom and challenges to legality issues including DEI, anti-semitism, etc. She mentioned the expected message from President Bendapudi to be delivered 02/25.

Associate Deans' Report

- **Shelley Stoffels** reminded faculty on inputting faculty accolades and external awards into the dashboard to capture achievement. Shelley also mentioned the importance of including a job description on the NTL faculty review.
- **Vijaykrishnan Narayanan** announced Penn State AI week, April 14th-17th. Nominate early career AI related researchers for a spotlight in April. Research Posters and Awards Nominations – March 24 Deadline. Space Research Day, April 14th, see Chris Greer in Mechanical Engineering (chris.greer@psu.edu) or James Tutt in the Department of

Astronomy and Astrophysics (jht12@psu.edu) for more info. Working on creating Engineering Hub talks similar to Millennium Café talks.

CAREER/Young Investigator Award Panel -- March 21 (Location TBD);

Leonhard center workshops.

CAREER Part 1 (Virtual) March 27, 3-4:30pm

CAREER Part 1 (in-person) March 28, 12-1:30pm (with lunch)

CAREER Part 2 (May)

- **Rob Rabb** stated faculty should impose a 5-10% contingency fund on course embedded travel. Please ensure all courses have been assigned to an instructor, this will ensure the pay budget is accurate and that the MSEEQs get to the proper instructor. Investigation into GradeScope usage (as opposed to TAs) and potential is under way. Applications for graduation for CoE, 1605, largest number, please consider attending and/or processing in honor of this great achievement.
- **Vijaykrishnan Narayanan** provided some important dates including AI Week, 4/14-18 with April 16th designated as the date for CoE posters. May 20th and 21st is designated for IndustryX which will have a DoE focus this year.

Assistant Deans' Report

- **Christine Masters** shows the new workflow to allow students to submit requests in a more streamline manner (late drop extension, etc.). Also, mentioned that Kelli Scofield and Nita Woodbridge would spearhead the new ENGR PMAJ designations, ENTRN and ENALT, that allow students to gain entrance despite credit window issues.
- **Ivan Esparragoza** mentioned ABET has now removed the DEI requirements in compliance with executive orders. The language has been replaced with the establishment of a “respectful environment”. The college is reviewing courses that have not been offered for 5 years, will remove from the bulletin.
- **Matt Zerphy** mentioned the IT OST progress; he expects CoE to issue an update within 18-24 months.
- **Stephanie Cutler** provided some important dates out of the Leonhard Center. An art exhibit, a combined initiative will be held March 16th. Also, an NSF Career Proposal workshop is scheduled for March 27th, 3-4:30pm.
- **Undergraduate Proposals – Sachin Gore**
All of the below course add/changes and program changes were 100% approved:
AI305 (part of BS AIE), new course
ENGR 393 Clark Scholars Program, new course
BS ENGR @ Lehigh Valley, program change
- **Graduate Proposals – Richard Mistrick**
MS CSE (blended online delivery); 100% approved

- **FEIB Committee- Constantino Lagoa**
Discussions for this committee are on pause.
- **Faculty Senate- Yun Jing**
No report.
- **Grad Council- Susan Stewart**
Susan reported on the two meetings that were held since the last EFC meeting. The December meeting included a motion on grad faculty membership. Additionally, the grad school handbook was discussed; this will include student resources in meeting the requirements of grad school.
- **New Business -Brad Sottile- Potential Motion being brought to Faculty Senate**
Brad Sottile invited CoE Faculty Senators to the meeting to discuss the potential motion for a VONC in regard to administration leadership. This primarily focused on potential campus closures, discontinued programs, and displaced faculty. After a lengthy discussion on the sentiment of those on the call, a straw poll was conducted. 61% voted against the motion for a VONC, 26% voted yes, and 13% were not sure how they would formally vote. The motion was tabled at the plenary meeting (following this meeting).

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 PM

Meeting Minutes prepared by: **Tracey A Carbonetto**
Tracey Carbonetto, Secretary

Links referenced:

[PSU AI Week 2025](#); [Associate Dean Engineering Report](#); [Academic Advising](#)