

College of Engineering

North Dakota State University

Minutes - Faculty Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 14, 2020, 12:30 - 1:30, Meeting on Zoom

Attending:

CoE: Michael Kessler, Scott Pryor, Kyle Bosch, Joel Hanson, Lisa Otterson

ABEN: Shafiqur Rahman, Dean Steele, Xinhua Jia, Zhulu Lin

CEE: David Steward, Beena Ajmera, Achintya Bezbaruah, Xuefeng Chu, Dinesh Katti, Kalpana Katti, Wei Lin, Zhibin Lin, Kelly Rusch, Amiy Varma, Wenjie Xia, Mijia Yang

CS: Anne Denton, Dean Knudson, Joseph Latimer, Lu Liu, Simone Ludwig, Kenneth Magel, Ken Nygard

CME: Abdulaziz Banawi, Houjun Yang

ECE: Jacob Glower, Roger Green, Ivan Lima, David rogers, Danling Wang, Di Wu, Qufeng Zhang

IME: David Grewell

ME: Alan Kallmeyer, Ali Amiri, Jordi Estevadeordal, Ghodat Karami, Robert Pieri, Majura Selekwa, Chad Ulven, Jessica Vold, Yan Zhang

1. Call to Order:

The meeting began at 12:33pm.

2. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Motion to approve March 11, 2020 (Katti / Karami). Motion passed.

3. Announcements

General:

- CoE Teaching and Research Award nominations will be accepted through April 17,2020
- President Bresciani's visit to CoE has been postponed until Fall 2020
- PT&E revision has been postponed until Fall 2020.

4. Committee Reports

CoE Academic Affairs Committee (Varma): The Academic Affairs committee will be going over the nominations for CoE teaching awards after April 17th.

CoE Research and Graduate Committee (Yang): Ditto for CoE research awards.

CoE PT&E Committee (Pieri):

- All faculty who are in the tenure / promotion process have been given a one-year extension of their probationary period. Faculty who do *not* want this one-year extension must notify their department chair by August 1, 2020 to opt out of this extension. This was explained in the Provost's letter dated April 8, 2020.
- 3rd-year reviews are not waived. This gives you four years to prepare for your application for promotion and tenure.
- Promotion applications submitted in Fall 2019 are not affected: they were at the Provost's office before the university went to remote operation.
- The PT&E committee is working on Section VI of the bylaws.

Faculty Senate Executive Committee (Pieri)

- Monday's Senate meeting will be on-line on Zoom. All faculty are of course welcome to listen in.

5. On-Line Teaching Experience Discussion (Kessler)

Dean Kessler led a discussion on our remote teaching experience using www.Menti.com to interact with the college faculty.

Update on Student Survey (Pryor)

About 150 students responded to a survey sent out to CoE students during spring break (i.e. the time the university went to remote learning.) Some of the comments were:

- A need for empathy and flexibility. Some of our students are in rural areas with limited internet connectivity. Some have personal issues with families. Students also have financial concerns and worries about job prospects.
- Communications with their faculty is important. Faculty should try to contact students at least once a week to let the students know how they're doing. Email, blackboard announcements, etc. are useful. Blackboard announcements are useful since it dates the communications that do take place.

Returning to www.Menti.com (Kessler), some questions posed to the faculty were:

- What is the most likely scenario for Fall 2020? Opinions were fairly uniform (average of 3) for each possibility.
- What actions can we take to do the most to minimize harm across all scenarios? Many ideas were put forth, but a common theme was that we should prepare for all classes being on-line for Fall 2020. It would be good to prepare for this over the summer.

Enrollment: NDSU's enrollment for Fall 2020 looks similar to what it was in 2019. The number of students who have committed to attending NDSU this fall is up about 10% from 2019. The number of housing applications is up 7.2% from 2019. There is a lot of uncertainty, however.

Two faculty have resigned from NDSU. Gursimran Walia accepted the position of Department Chair at Georgia Southern University. Samee Khan accepted the position of Department Chair at Mississippi State University.

On-going searches are still on-going. They have not been canceled.

Dean Kessler then opened up the meeting for questions:

- "Travel to and from the field is limited.
- "Have we asked students about whether they would defer enrollment if we went on-line next term?" No - we haven't. The Chronicle of Higher Education had a survey of high-school seniors. 1 in 5 was planning on not going to college due to the Corona virus. Other students were changing where they would go as a result.
- "When should we know what will be happening this fall?" As a guess, a decision like that would not be made before June. It depends a lot on the pandemic.
- "Is there a big change in the future of education?" The Chronicle of Higher Education has an article on this. It's a good question and could go in many directions.
- "How can mentoring continue for junior faculty?" It is important that we continue to have interaction, even in the social distancing environment. "Teams" is a good application. Department chairs are asked to keep *Teams* running - sort of like having your office door open. It's been helpful.
- "Among committed students, how many are from Minnesota?" Minnesota commits are down 3% from 2019 while North Dakota commits are running 18% ahead of 2019.
- "Could you comment on the research level of the college?" Research expenditures will probably be up this year, partially due to some large recent grants that were awarded. Publications, grant applications, and grant awards are reported .
 - 2019 Expenditures: \$5.2 million (up from \$3.6 million in 2015)
 - 2019 Awards: \$6.1 million (up from \$4.7 million from 2018)
- What is the budget situation at NDSU? Shutting down the residence halls of the university about \$5 million. Summer 2020 is expected to result in another \$5 million hit. That means that going into fall 2020, NDSU will be down about \$10 to \$12 million from last year. The CARES act has about \$7.7 million designated from NDSU, so that will help.
- "Can the college provide a cohesive message to graduate students regarding continued working in the laboratories..." Civil Engineering had a faculty meeting to discuss this. Their policy was that you could work in the labs, but only two students should be in any given lab at any time. We will talk about whether there should be a policy at the college level.

- "Are we still going to do SROIs this semester?" Yes, but there will be an on-line format. Faculty going up for promotion or tenure can choose whether they use these SROI's in their portfolio.

Our next meeting will be on May 6th at 3pm. Probably on Zoom as well.

9. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:49pm

Respectfully submitted

Jake Glower, secretary

April 14, 2020