

College of Engineering

North Dakota State University

Faculty Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 13, 2020, 12:30 – 1:30 on Zoom

Attending:

- CoE: Michael Kessler, Scott Pryor, Steve Jeffery
- ABEN: Kenneth J. Hellevang, Zhulu Lin, Ewumbua Monono
- CEE: David R. Steward, Xuefeng (Micheal) Chu, Dinesh R. Katti, Kalpana S. Katti, Mijia Yang
- CS: Pretap Kotala, Jun Kong, Simone Ludwig, Jeremy Straub,
- CME: Zhili 'Jerry' Gao, Youjin Jang, Todd Sirotiak, Yao Yu
- ECE: Benjamin Braaten, Farhad Carami, Jacob Glower, Sumitha George, Ivan T. Lima, Jr, David Rogers, Qifeng Zhang
- IME: Kambiz Farahmand
- ME: Alan Kallmeyer, Ali Amiri, Fardad Azarmi, Adam Gladen, Inbae Jeong, Ghodrat Karami, Robert Pieri, Majura Selekwa, Chad Ulven, Yechun Wang, Yan Zhang,

1. Call to Order (Lin)

The meeting was called to order at 12:30

2. CARES Act / technology installation update (Wallman)

Marc Wallman gave an update on hardware which is being installed on campus. This includes

- Installation of new technology on classrooms. A table exists on the ITS website which gives which classrooms have been instrumented and what is available in each classroom.
- Every classroom has had some upgrades.
- Some faculty are being asked to move their classrooms on-line for a week so that ITS can install equipment in that classroom
- Two orders of laptops have been distributed.
- Tablets will come in by early November.
- The wireless was upgraded in all residence halls.
- The switched networks were upgraded for all academic buildings on campus.

A short question and answer session followed Marc Wallman's presentation.

Mr. Wallman then requested that faculty not hesitate in submitting a help-desk ticket, no matter how small. With so many people working remotely, it's about the only way ITS can feedback from the faculty.

3. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Motion to approve (Karami / Pieri). Motion approved.

4. Announcements

Personnel Discriptions & University Budget (Kessler):

- An audit of the personnel records revealed that a few position descriptions did not match what the faculty member was actually doing. Department chairs have since been tasked with updating the position descriptions accordingly. In addition, a statement relating to NDSU's core values are being added to each position description:

All faculty are expected to contribute to a collegial and collaborative campus climate, and to actively encourage, support, and advance a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community.

- NDSU is facing as much as a \$4 million budget cut this year due to declining enrollment. The Provost has been tasked by the President with developing "an objective performance-based calculus for determining within each college on a department-by-department basis, where budget cuts are warranted." Several guidelines for these potential cuts are expressed in a letter to the deans and department chairs. This letter will be shared with the CoE faculty shortly.
- Overall, the College of Engineering is positioned well in terms of budget cuts, but we can expect some pain.

Hy-Flex Survey (Pryor)

- Close to 600 responses were received from our students relating to how classes are progressing with the Hy-Flex model. Overall, there were more positive statements than constructive feedback. Some of the constructive feedback was
 - Please have someone monitoring the chat line so that questions from remote students are addressed.
 - If you don't wear a lapel microphone, please don't walk away from your laptop. On-line students can't hear you if you're too far away.
- Feedback to the faculty from this survey is currently on-going.

ENGR 311 / 312 / 401 (Pryor)

- We are looking at combining Engr 311 and Engr 312 into a single course. Presently, both courses have almost identical learning outcomes. Moreover, it's not clear who would be responsible for making changes to make these distinct courses since each of these have been taught multiple faculty and graduate students over the past few years.
- The History Department has offered to teach a 3cr History of Technology course, which would replace ENGR 311 and 312.
- Philosophy has offered to teach a cross-listed 3cr Engineering Ethics and Technology course taught by Philosophy faculty.
- This would benefit our students by providing a consistent instructor for each of these courses. It would also reduce the number of credits needed by 1 credit.
- Nothing has been decided yet, but it is something that's under consideration.

5. Committee Announcements/Reports

CoE Executive (Lin): The CoE Executive Committee will meet on Tuesdays the week before the college meeting. If you have something to bring to the attention of the faculty, please contact one of us prior to this meeting.

PT&E: No report

Research and Graduate: No Report

Academic Affairs (Pryor): The Minor in Biomed Engineering is being modified slightly. At present, a non-engineering student at NDSU can get a minor in Biomed Engineering without taking any courses in engineering. That wasn't the intent. Changes in the minor are being discussed to fix this problem.

University Senate (Selekwa): At the last Faculty Senate meeting, the Senate voted to remove the current President of the Faculty Senate. This requires two votes to remove, with the second vote coming in a week or two. Some discussion then ensued regarding the discussion at the Senate.

Dr. Selekwa then requested that faculty in CoE contact their Senators if you have a strong opinion on this matter before the upcoming vote.

6. Old Business

none

7. New Business

HyFlex Learning (Kessler)

- Postponed to our next meeting due to time constraints.

Covid-19 Waste Water Studies (Lin)

- Postponed to our next meeting due to time constraints.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacob Glower, CoE Secretary

October 13, 2020