

College of Engineering
North Dakota State University
Faculty Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 19th, 2023, noon – 1pm
Memorial Union, Sahnish room

Attending:

CoE: Salaymon Eshkabilov, Jared Hineman, Alan Kalmeyer, Scott Pryor

ABEN: Leon Schumacher, Clairmont Clementson, Xiaoyu (Iris) Feng, Xinhua Jia, Zhulu Lin, Ewumbua Monono, Dean D. Steele

CCEE: Achintya N. Bezbaruah, Kalpana S. Katti, Trung B. Le, Xuefeng (Michael) Chu, Dinesh R. Katti, Grant Lebahn, Kelly A. Rusch, Mijia Yang

CS: Anne Denton, Pretap Katala, Simone Ludwig, Jeremy Straub

ECE: Benjamin Braaten, Jacob Glower, Roger Green, Danling Wang

IME: David Grewell, Kambiz Farahmand, Diana Lopez-Soto, Reza Maleki, Lokesh Narayanan, Majahid Osman, Harun Pirim

ME: Ali Amiri, Fardad Azarmi, Adam Gladen, Long Jiang, Ghodrat Karami, G.H. Nazari, Majura Selekwa, Yildirim Suzen, Chad Ulven, Jessica Vold, Yechun Wang, Xiangfa Wu, Yan Zhang

1. Call to Order

The meeting began at 12:05pm

2. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Note that two changes in the CoE bylaws were made in this meeting:

- Faculty can serve more than two years on a CoE committee if needed (such as if only faculty member from a department is eligible to serve on that committee).
- CoE Faculty Meetings are to be held once per semester (or more).

These changes were approved by the CoE faculty through electronic voting with all votes cast in favor of these changes.

Motion to approve the minutes from May 10, 2022 (Farahmand / Katti). Motion approved.

3. Announcements

Introduction of New Faculty

ABEN: Clairmont Clementson, Xiaoyu (Iris) Feng

CCEE: Surya Congress, Jiale Xu, Grant Lebahn

CS: Ajay Jha
ECE: none
IME: Harun Pirim
ME: Prakash Selvakumar

4. Committee Announcements/Reports

CoE Executive (no report)

Academic Affairs (no report)

Research and Graduate: (no report)

University Senate: (Lin): The University Faculty Senate is looking at new course offerings, how resources can be shared across a campus. It is also setting up a committee to look at improving freshmen retention rates.

i-Corps Program (Greewell): The i-Corps program is NSF funding where we prepare a team that typically consists of a faculty, a graduate student, and an industry mentor. These teams go through a five-week program where members learn how to take their ideas closer to commercialization. This primarily focuses on customer discovery and lean Launchpad. Next Friday (Jan 27th) we have the first introduction to what is i-Corps. This is located on the web page:

<https://ndsu-cefb.com/-corps/>

This year, there will be three cohorts. Any faculty who are interested in participating in the i-Corps program are welcome to apply online. There is no cost – this is funded by the NSF. During this five week program, participants meet twice per week for 2-3 hours each time.

This opportunity is for NDSU faculty, faculty across the NDUS system, and faculty across the upper great plains.

5. Discussions & Q&A

(Kallmeyer) Dr. Kallmeyer thanked the faculty for the welcome he is receiving as interim dean of CoE. Dr. Kallmeyer has been a faculty member in CoE for 28 years, and chair of ME since 2005. In summer 2022, Dr. Kallmeyer was asked to serve as dean for the NDSU College of Business. When Dr. Kessler stepped down as Dean of CoE, Dr. Kallmeyer applied for the position. With serving as the interim dean of two colleges, Dr. Kallmeyer is spending about half of his time on the main campus, the other half downtown at Berry Hall. The goal from the College of Business is to have a new permanent dean in place by Summer 2023. At that time, Dr. Kallmeyer will be full-time interim dean of CoE.

During Spring 2023, Dr. Kallmeyer plans on meeting with each department in CoE.

The following is a brief update for what is going on in CoE.

CoE has some challenges. Most of the budget challenges are related to undergraduate enrollment, since that's where our revenue comes from. There are two issues with enrollment: recruitment and retention.

Our budget at NDSU comes from two sources: one is tuition revenue, the other is state appropriations. State appropriations are based entirely on enrollment. Tuition is also based entirely upon enrollment. Going back to 2017, CoE has dropped 600 students. Tuition is about \$10k/y, so you can do the math. This year, we had a pretty large budget cut which is based upon a drop in tuition revenue. CoE was assessed a \$900,000 cut. That cut has been dealt with.

For state appropriations, funding has a two-year lag based upon enrollment. For this biennium, NDSU is facing a \$7.5 million cut based upon the formula. We're optimistic that this number will be reduced a little bit, perhaps to \$4.5 million for next biennium. This cut is what's driving the initiatives you're probably aware of.

The final plan for how to accommodate these cuts will be rolled out next Wednesday (January 25th). CoE has been assigned an additional cut of \$600,000 per year as a part of this cut. That's what we're dealing with right now. More information about that will also come out next week.

This "final" plan can still be modified. Faculty and staff input will be sought out and taken into consideration.

There are promising opportunities for CoE, but these all depend upon turning around our undergraduate enrollment. Likewise, this is one of my top priorities.

(A question was raised pertaining to limiting or reducing tuition waivers for graduate students.) As a bit of background, at NDSU, if a graduate student has a 10-hour/week appointment in an academic department, he/she gets a 100% tuition waiver. This means that no revenue is coming in for the classes that student takes. Pretty much every graduate program we have at NDSU, with a few exceptions, lose money. They do at many institutions by the way. Your base is built upon undergraduates.

If we want to have a healthy graduate program, we must have a healthy undergraduate program. That is our bread and butter. Rather than cutting our graduate numbers, I'd like to see our undergraduate numbers come up. That being said, tuition waivers for the coming year will not be affected. In addition, I'm trying to find a way that any student who is currently on a waiver will be grand-fathered in through completion of their degree.

Huron is coming up with something called "the tuition incentivized budget model" – which will go into effect July 1 at NDSU. This model takes the tuition revenue generated by each college and sends it right back to the college. Each college will now be responsible for sustaining your own college. The state money goes and supports all

other endeavors across campus. Each college is expected to be self-supporting based upon tuition revenue.

There are different ways for distributing tuition revenue. The formula that's favored currently is to distribute revenue with 75% weighting upon student-credit-hours, 25% weighting based upon college of enrollment. That's what many institutions migrate to.

What this means is, if we want to increase our budget, we need to increase our enrollment.

In other news, the new engineering building is a top-priority for NDSU with the state legislature. It has a price-tag of \$112 million. Both UND and NDSU/Ag also have requested buildings, however, so it is uncertain if the new engineering building will get funding this legislative session.

6. Old Business

none

7. New Business

none

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 1:06pm

Respectfully submitted, 1/23/2023

Jake Glower