

College of Engineering

North Dakota State University
Faculty Council Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 5, 2024, 2-3pm
CME Auditorium

Attending:

CoE: Alan Kalmeyer

ABEN: Sulaymon Eshkabilov

CCEE: Achintya N. Bezbaruah, Xuefeng (Michael) Chu, Youjin Jang, Dinish Katti, Kalpana Katti, Trung Le, Yao Yu

CS: Ajay Jha, Lu Liu, Simone Ludwig

ECE: Benjamin Braaten, Jacob Glower

IME: Harun Pirim

ME: Ali Amiri, Jordi Estevadeordal, Inbae Jeong, Long Jiang, Ghodrat Karami, G.H. Nazari, Yildirim Suzen, Chad Ulven, Jessica Vold, Xinnan Wang, Yan Zhang

1. Call to Order

The meeting began at 2:06pm

2. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

- October 13, 2023
- December 8, 2023

Motion to approve (D. Katti, Suzen). Motion approved

3. Announcements

(Kallmeyer): Bringing everyone up to speed with what's happening in the college:

New Building: Reiterating what was in the College Happenings, within the next few weeks, all of the Dean's staff will be moving out of the round building. Beginning next week (April 8th), the Dean's office will be:

- EML 2nd-floor dean's suite: Alan Kallmeyer, Scott Pryor, Kyle Bosch, and Nancy Rossland
- Eng 228: Joel Hanson
- Civil Cluster: Melissa Kunz

That's how it's going to be for the next couple of years during construction.

Asbestos abatement will happen in early May, and sometime in early summer, the building will come down. When the building is brought down, we'll make some sort of event out of it. Once the building comes down, the central area will be blocked off – so it will be disruptive. As I learn more, I'll get the information out to everyone.

The good news is we're able to do this because we were able to raise money. The original goal was to raise \$25 million to match state funds. When Richard Offerdahl came in with his \$25 million donation, that put us at \$41 million. That allows us to not

only do the new construction, but to do some substantial renovations throughout the complex. The major areas will be the CIE building, the ECE building, and a little in Dolve. There may also be extra funding for equipment. Faculty should start thinking ahead – what type of equipment will you need for your labs.

The new building will be called “The Offerdahl 65 Engineering Complex.” This will also affect the names of the current buildings. Dolve Hall and Ehly Hall will keep their current names. The other existing buildings will be called Offerdahl West (ECE), Offerdahl North (CIE) Offerdahl East (ME). That will result in renumbering labs and office space.

On the CoE Web Site, there is a page for the building which has (or will have) floor plans, etc.

Fund raising is still ongoing. Now that we’re on a roll, we’re still raising more money for philanthropic support. This additional money can be used for faculty professorships, student scholarships, equipment, graduate student support, etc. Money for a full-time associate dean of research would also greatly benefit the college as well. Likewise, even though we’ve met the target for funding our new building, fund raising is still ongoing.

Enrollment: We’re tracking our numbers for next year. Good news – we’re watching the 1st-year freshmen commitments for 2024. NDSU is down about 7% for freshmen commitments. This has direct impact on our budgets. CoE is up 5.6% from the same time last year. When you factor in some things like FAFSA, it’s quite remarkable. FAFSA provides student loans and grants. It’s way behind, so there are still a lot of students waiting to see what they’re approved for. It’s pushing back deadlines for acceptances. The fact that we’re up 5% when you consider the delay from FAFSA. It could turn out better.

When you break it down regionally – we’re about even on the Minnesota side. This is in spite of the North Star promise. We’re up almost 25% on students from North Dakota. Our investment on recruitment and retention is paying off. Our applications numbers are down but our commitments are up.

Budget: We do not yet know what our budget is for next year. We do anticipate that overall the university will be down again. It’s hard to predict – if our freshmen numbers remain strong we may be OK. This year we ran a deficit of about \$3 million. We made up some of that by not filling open lines. We’ve got some saving through the new tuition waiver policy. We were given some leeway on meeting the \$3 million shortfall this year – that leeway will probably not exist next year. So, we do have some lean years ahead of us. It all comes down to enrollment. Anything we can do to help with retention and enrollment will help.

4. Committee Announcements/Reports

Executive: No report

Promotion and Tenure: No report

Academic Affairs: (Amiri) Courseleaf is now closed. This year, the CoE AA committee reviewed 134 proposals – amounting to 23 per member. This included 31 programs with the rest being course changes. Most of the course proposals were sent back due to problems with the syllabus.

The deadline for submitting nominations for the teaching awards is April 12th.

Research and Graduate: No report

University Senate: No report

5. Elections

Nominations for open positions will be emailed to faculty through April 30th. Elections for these positions will happen the following week, ending May 10th

Open positions include: (nominations as of 4/6/24)

- University Senate (Dinish Katti)
- Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (Kalana Katti)
- Library ()
- Univ Athletics (Ali Amiri, Ying Huang)
- Univ Curriculum (Ali Amiri)
- Univ Curriculum (alt)(Ken Magel)
- CoE Parliamentarian ()
- Graduate Council (Yildirim Suzen)
- Policy 352 Committee ()

Postion

6. Old Business

none

7. New Business

A discussion of having more CoE meetings in the coming years took place. Holding two meetings per semester, planned out at the start of the semester was recommended.

K. Katti discussed some problems with the new tuition waiver policy in CoE. This policy is discouraging writing larger grants and results in fewer research assistants for a given amount of funding. Some other means for balancing the budget would be preferred.

Dr. Kallmeyer noted that tuition remission is very common across the country, as well at UND. This does impact the higher-dollar grants. Tuition waivers are a big chunk of the CoE budget: it takes up \$2 million out of a \$19 million budget. Until we get our undergraduate enrollment up to the point where we're self-sufficient, we need to do something about tuition waivers. Suggestions for other avenues are always welcome.

Dr. Kalpana Katti was asked to form an ad-hoc committee to look at other ways of closing the budget shortfall in CoE.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:56pm

Respectfully submitted, 4/6/24

Jake Glower