

College of Engineering
North Dakota State University
Faculty Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, December 16th, 2024, 3-4pm

Attending:

CoE: Alan Kalmeyer, Scott Pryor

ABEN: Sulaymon Eshkabilov, Zhulu Lin, Dean Steele

CCEE: Armstrong Aboah, Achintya Bezbaruah, Lin Chen, Trung Le, Yao Yu

CS: Ajay Jha, Simone Ludwig

ECE: Ben Braatem, Sumitha George, Jacob Glower

IME: none

ME: Chad Ulven, Adam Gladen, Ghodrat Karami, Yildirim Suzen, Xinnan Wang, Xingfa Wu, Yan Zhang, Jiang Long

1. Call to Order

The meeting began at 3:04pm

2. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from Nov 4th, 2024 (Bexbaruah, Karami). Motion approved

3. Announcements

(Kallmeyer): Building Update: Construction bids came in lower than expected. This allows us to go forward with some of the renovations in the complex. This includes

- Next year the CIE building will be closed for renovations (Fa25/Sp26)
- The following academic year, ECE will be closed for renovations (Fa26/Sp27).

This stretches the timeline out, but this is great news that we will get these buildings renovated.

Another nice thing is that the bids came in so much lower that we'll get some additional space. This space comes from extending the building further into the visitor lot. This will create more space which will help meet our research needs.

Budget: Final numbers show that CoE's budget deficit went from \$3.2 million down to \$3.0 million. By working with the chairs, a combination of permanent cuts from open lines, temporary cuts from shifting funds, and dipping into our reserve funds has met this cut for the current year. Next year, the budget situation should be better due to increased enrollment that we're seeing this year. There is a one year lag in funding – meaning the enrollment increase we have this year won't impact us until next year.

(Pryor): Numbers for this coming year look good.

- Registration for spring semester in CoE is up 8% relative to last year. This may be due to an increase in enrollment or due to students registering early.

- Registration of juniors and seniors in CoE is up 20% relative to last year. Juniors and seniors take more of our courses and we get likewise get a much higher percentage of the tuition dollars.
- Graduate students are up 43% in registration. There has been a push to get students to register early – which probably contributes to this number.
- Applications are about even relative to last year.

4. Committee Announcements/Reports

Executive: (Le) CoE meeting dates for next semester have been set:

- Monday, Feb 3, 3-4pm
- Monday, Mar 3, 3-4pm
- Monday, Apr 7, 3-4pm
- Monday May 5, 3-4pm

Promotion and Tenure: (Karami) The CoE PT&E committee has finished its evaluations for candidates going up promotion and tenure. These evaluations have been sent on to the Dean and the Provost.

Revisions to the CoE PT&E document were approved by the CoE faculty. These revisions have been sent on to the Dean and the Provost as well.

The CoE PT&E committee has received four updated PT&E documents from departments, including updated sections on post-tenure review. Reviews of these are on hold until we get clarifications from the Provost on what the expectations are for the post-tenure review sections. The deadline for getting these to the Provost is the end of January.

Academic Affairs: (Zhang) The Academic Affairs committee has received feedback on the teaching expectations draft that was sent out. The AA committee is working on updating the document based upon this feedback. Note that this is not intended to be a policy – just a statement of expectations.

Research and Graduate: No report

University Senate: No report

5. Old Business

Differential Tuition & Tuition Waivers (Le): One question brought up by several faculty members relates to differential tuition no longer being covered by tuition waivers for graduate students.

(Kallmeyer): A discussion of this was sent out in an earlier email. The reasoning was explained in this email. I also met with a group of graduate students 3 week ago and explained the same information to them. Obviously, the graduate students don't like this – but they understood why we had to do it given our current situation. Note that differential tuition is now tied to tuition levels – and is about 10% of tuition in CoE.

As a college leadership team, we looked at how to balance our budget. No longer covering differential tuition was a compromise that was necessary. As a sidelight, this change puts CoE in line with all of the other colleges, making tuition-waiver policy more consistent across NDSU.

The other thing that came up in this meeting relates to stipends. There is a lot of variability in stipends across the college. In some cases, those stipend levels are quite low. We are likewise starting the conversation with the college leadership team to examine stipend levels.

6. New Business

None

7. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:35pm

Respectfully submitted, 12/17/24

Jake Glower