

College of Engineering
North Dakota State University
Faculty Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 3rd, 2025, 3-4pm, Dolve 118
Rev 2/6/25, 3/3/25

Attending:

CoE: Alan Kallmeyer, Scott Pryor

ABEN: Igathinathne Cannayen, Sulaymon Eshkabilov, Zhulu Lin, Ewumbua Monono, Dean Steele

CCEE: Zhihui Ding, Dinish Katti, Kalpana Katti, Trung Le

CS: Anne Denton, Simone Ludwig

ECE: Sumitha George

IME: Kambiz Farahmand, Harun Pirim, Mojahid Osman

ME: Fardad Azarmi, Jordi Estevadeordal, Adam Gladen, Inbae Jeong, Ghodrat Karami, William Refling, Bora Suzen, Yechun Wang, Xiangfa Wu

1. Call to Order

The meeting began at 3:04pm

2. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Motion to approve minutes from 12/16/24 (Karami / Katti)

Motion approved

3. Announcements

(Kallmeyer): Construction of the new Offerdahl building is underway. Construction will be ongoing throughout the winter. At present, construction is right on schedule.

On a second topic, President Trump issued an executive order restricting funding related to DEI efforts. This really slows things down as every purchase and every new hire has to be reviewed to make sure it does not conflict with this executive order.

On a positive note, a temporary restraining order was issued by a judge last Friday. This means that this review is no longer required - for now. This also means that faculty with federal grants can proceed as normal for the time being. Until otherwise noted, faculty can continue to spend on their federal grants.

Dr. Cook also mentioned that, since we don't know how long the restraining order will last, all faculty are strongly encouraged to submit all eligible expenses in a timely manner.

Note that the executive order is specific to DEI. If you hired graduate students who are working on technical topics, there should be no problems. If, on the other hand, you have tasks or objectives that relate to DEI - such as tasks that specifically focus on

expansion to underrepresented groups or diverse populations - then you may want to put a hold on these tasks for the long term.

On another positive note, Dr. Jeong has accepted the position of interim chair for Mechanical Engineering. A big thank you to Dr. Ulven for his work as interim chair as well as for Dr. Jeong for taking on this new responsibility.

4. Committee Announcements/Reports

Executive: 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

PT&E (Karami): Departmental PT&E committees are currently revising their PT&E documents with respect to post tenure review. Reviews of these departmental PT&E documents should be done in the next 20 days.

AA (Yang/Le): CourseLeaf deadlines are coming soon...

R&G (George): The deadlines for nominations are:

- Excellence in Research Award: 5pm, April 11th
- Early Career Research Award: 5pm, April 11th
- Graduate Research Award: 5pm, March 28th

Nominations should be sent to Sumitha George (chair of CoE R&G committee)

Nominations for teaching awards are

- Excellence in Teaching: 5pm, April 11th
- Early Career Teaching: 5pm, April 11th
- Graduate Teaching: 5pm, March 28th

Nominations for teaching awards should go to Yan Zhang (chair of CoE AA committee).

5. Old Business

none

6. New Business

(Suzen): One problem the Graduate Council is looking at is when at some point a faculty member no longer wants to work with a student. What is the responsibility of the department towards the graduate student in this case? Should there be a process to work with the student in this case? The graduate council is working on a possible policy for GRA's for departments.

Some discussion continued noting that this situation does occasionally happen. When it does, the chair, the faculty member, and the student meet and come up with a plan that works for everyone. What we're currently doing in this situation works.

(Le): A second concern is with Inter-Library Loan (ILL). It takes 4-5 days to get a paper through ILL. This delay propagates if going through a sequence of papers. A survey will be sent out get feedback from faculty related to ILL to see how widespread this problem is as well as to solicit suggestions for solving this problem.

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 3:45pm

Respectfully submitted, 2/5/25

Jake Glower