

College of Engineering
North Dakota State University
Faculty Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 29th, 2025, 4-5pm, Dolve 202

Attending:

CoE: Alan Kallmeyer, Scott Pryor

ABEN: Clairmont Clementson, Sulaymon Eshkabilov, Xinhua Jia, Ewumbua Monono, Leon Schimacher

CCEE: Xuefeng Chu, Trung Le, Jiale Xu, Yao Yu

CS: Simone Ludwig

ECE: Ben Braaten, Sumitha George, Jacob Glower, Kushal Ponugoti, Umamaheswara Tida

IME: Harun Pirim, Mojahid Osman

ME: Fardad Azarmi, Jordi Estevadeordal, Long Jiang, Ghodrat Karami, Yildirim Suzen, Chad Ulven, Jessica Vold, Xiangfa Wu, Yan Zhang

1. Call to Order

The meeting began at 4:03pm

2. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Motion to approve minutes from May 5th, 2025 (Karami, Ludwig). Motion approved

Motion to approve minutes from April 7th, 2025 (Karami, Clementson). Motion approved.

3. Announcements

(Kallmeyer) There are several topics to cover.

New Building: The new engineering building is on track for opening Fall 2026. The official opening will be right around homecoming. During Su26, departments will start moving into some areas. This move-in will be phased with the schedule for who moves in when released during Sp26. Once departments are moved in, ECE will move out of its building for renovations.

Fundraising is still ongoing for the new Offerdahl complex. The goal is to raise money for equipment for teaching labs. Ideally, we would like to have new equipment for the new building. So far, there have been around \$6-7 million requested for teaching equipment, with this list being in the hands of the department chairs. Any faculty who have additional items to add to this list for equipment related to teaching should contact their respective department chairs.

Budget: Unfortunately, CoE is still running a deficit. Gains in student credit hour (sch) production have a two-year lag. Likewise, the gains from 24/25 won't show up until next year. On the good side, the \$3 million deficit two years ago is down to a \$2 million

deficit last year. There is a plan to meet and manage this through open positions, fewer GTA and adjunct faculty, and moving more graduate students over to grant funding. In addition, the New Horizons funding from the State of North Dakota will help. Three programs were funded: robotics and automation, materials science, and artificial intelligence. These funds can offset some faculty salary, which helps with the deficit.

Next year should be better due to increases in enrollment from 24/25.

Peltier Institute: The public launch of the Peltier Institute was September 29th, 2025. This reflects a \$15 million gift from the Peltier family for the institute.

GTA Tuition Waiver Policy: There are still some questions related to the college's policy related to GTA's. These policies are posted on the CoE Teams site. The main changes are

- The college no longer covers differential tuition: only base-line tuition is covered with tuition waivers.
- There are now credit caps: only so many credits can be waived for each student. Exceptions are allowed, however.

Advisors should keep track of the total number of credits each graduate student is taking and using for tuition waivers. This is something advisors should be mindful of when selecting courses for their graduate students.

(Pryor): Some updates and numbers for the college:

- NDSU has the same number of students three years in a row now. The downward trend has hopefully stopped.
- CoE is now in its second year of growth. Enrollment in CoE is up 2% this year. This is the first time this has happened since 2016. Some of this of this growth comes from online students which grew from 6 to 104 students. Another part comes from new freshmen and transfer students which are up 2.5%.
- CoE's retention rate is the highest of all the colleges with 82.5% of students returning from last year. Online retention is around 40% - which is not surprising. This is about the same as UND's retention rate for online students.
- The two-year retention rate in CoE is about 70%.

4. Committee Announcements/Reports

Executive (Glower): The next meeting of CoE will be

- Monday, November 3rd
- 4pm in Dolve 202.

Promotion & Tenure: no report

Academic Affairs: Faculty working on course proposals should work with their representative before submitting. Each department's representative is:

- ABEN: Xinhua Jia
- CCEE: Armstrong Aboah
- CS: Anne Denton
- ECE: Kushal Ponugoti
- IME: Harun Pirim
- ME: Yah Zhang

Research & Graduate: no report

Senate (Le): Faculty Senate is discussing policy 1009. Faculty with input should contact one of CoE's senators.

5. Old Business

(Glower): The University Senate Academic Integrity Committee still needs a representative from CoE. Dr. Xuefeng Chu has volunteered to represent CoE. Motion to elect Dr. Chu for this committee passed.

(Karami) There are some upcoming changes to the Post Tenure Review (PTR) policy due to changes in the final bill that was signed into law. The content of PTR packages has not changed. The criteria use to evaluate PTR packages has not changed. What has changed is the procedure by which these packages are reviewed.

Previously, PTR packages were to be evaluated at the department level by the department PTE committee and the department chair separately. If either found a faculty member's performance satisfactory, the PTR process stopped. This is no longer viable due to changes in state law.

The new procedure for evaluating PTR packages is being developed and is scheduled to be voted on in the October meeting of the Faculty Senate. At present, the plan is to have two steps:

- The first step in the PTR review process is for each department's PTE committee to review each candidate's PTR package like before. The result of this process is a recommendation to the candidate's Culminating Committee.
- The second step is for each candidate's package to be reviewed by the candidate's Culminating Committee – with this second step being required by state law. This Culminating Committee evaluates the package and states whether the faculty member's performance is satisfactory or unsatisfactory (those words exactly).

The Culminating Committee consists of four people (prescribed by state law):

- The faculty member's chair,
- The dean or dean's representative,
- One faculty member recommended by the college PTE committee, and
- One faculty member recommended by the department PTE committee.

Since this committee contains the faculty member's chair, there will need to be different culminating committees for each department's faculty.

If a majority of the Culminating Committee vote unsatisfactory, the result of the review is unsatisfactory. Otherwise, the result is satisfactory and the process stops. Exactly what happens if the result is unsatisfactory is still being defined.

What this means is that each department will need to revise their respective PTE documents to reflect this change in procedure. Again, there have been no changes in the content of the PTE portfolios. There have been no changes to the department's criteria for reviewing these portfolios. What has changed is the procedure for evaluating these portfolios. What this procedure is exactly should be defined in the October meeting of the Faculty Senate – but it should be very similar to this description.

There are also upcoming information sessions hosted by the Provost's office related to post-tenure review:

- Thursday, Jan 15th, 9:30am. Information session for faculty going up for PTR
- February 15th, 1pm: Information session for PTR reviewers

6. New Business

none

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:40pm

Respectfully submitted, 9/30/25

Jake Glower