

## Faculty Meeting Minutes (Open session)

January 24, 2022 | 2:30 - 3:30 pm | Benson Hall, Room 109- ZOOM

Attendance:

Meeting start: 2:30 | Adjourn 3:30

### Faculty Present (blank=absent)

Department Chair, Jim Pfaendtner - Present

Stu Adler	P	Cole DeForest	P	Jorge Marchand	P	Ben Rutz	P	Neda Bagheri
François Baneyx	P	Hugh Hillhouse	P	Shachi Mittal		Daniel Schwartz	P	Cao Guozhong
David Beck	P	Vince Holmberg	P	Elizabeth Nance	P	Eric Stuve		Jonathan Posner
John Berg		Samson Jenekhe	P	Rene Overney	P	Stephanie Valteau	P	
David Bergsman	P	Mary Lidstrom	P	Lilo Pozzo				
James Carothers	P	Jun Liu		Buddy Ratner	P			

### Others Present

Debbie Carnes	Lindsey Doermann	Andrea Gleichweith	Barry Wall	
Nicole Devine	Dave Drischell	Nicole Minkoff		

### AGENDA

- Approval of minutes from 1/10/22 faculty meeting
- Announcements/Updates
- C-Hack update (Valteau)
- ~~Increase in research computing costs (Pfaendtner)~~ hold until Spring
- Criminal background checks for academic student employees (Pfaendtner)
- Faculty search update (Pfaendtner)
- David Beck - reappointment Research Associate Professor (full Professors only)

### Announcements

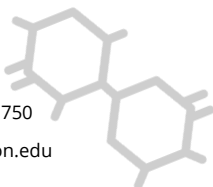
The topic of an increase in research computing costs will be held until a Spring meeting. It is a minor issue but the faculty need to be updated on the additional transfer of costs from the college to the departments.

The final item at the end of the meeting, Dave Beck reappointment, will be full professors only.

Welcome to Barry Wall! He is the new graduate program manager to replace Allison Sherrill. Congratulations to Dave Drischell on a successful search and thanks to everyone who served on the search committee with Dave.

Congratulations to David Beck! He was named PI on a large grant from the Schmidt Futures Foundation to create a virtual institute for scientific software. The grant is \$12.8M over 5 years, and will create entities at four universities: UW, Cambridge UK, Johns Hopkins, and Georgia Tech. There was a write-up in *Science*, Nancy Allbritton was quoted.

Please participate in graduate recruiting.



This is the annual call for nominations for departmental awards. You will receive an email about this. The department gives three awards: Moulton award in industry, Moulton award in academia, and the Early Career Impact award. Nominations will be due the middle of February, then faculty will vote. The Moulton award winners often speak at the department award event and graduation.

Jim sent an email today to faculty about the request for CVs, please be responsive. Contact Jim if you would like to discuss with him.

The meeting minutes from the Jan 10, 2022 meeting were approved.

### **COVID UPDATES**

The UW president sent out an email saying UW will return to largely in person instruction on Monday 1/31. The format of your course at the beginning of the quarter is the format you will return to on 1/31, unless you have authorization from Jim to change the format. If you have questions, reach out to Jim. This means that courses will operate as they did in Autumn quarter. Faculty should provide accommodations when students are sick. This continues to be a challenging situation. Students and faculty and their families will continue to get sick. Faculty have to do their best to accommodate this. But you are not required to provide simultaneous remote and in-person instruction. The president did not say that we will have a fully hybrid situation.

Jesse is available if you need IT support. If you have concerns email Jim right away.

Be in clear communication with your students. If you need resources for how to answer students' questions about this, ask Jim, Elizabeth, Dave Drischell, or Nicole Minkoff.

The COE is purchasing a large lot of N95 masks, the department has asked for 500 of these. When those are available they will be in the office in 105. You can bring a stack to class to distribute to students. We can't require students to wear N95s but we can encourage it.

### **C-Hack update (Valleau)**

The second ChemE hackathon for undergrads took place this month. It was opened to students from Oregon State university this year. There were more initial participants than last year. 67 completed the final project. See the slide for information on the participants.

### **Criminal background checks for academic student employees (Pfaendtner)**

We are now adding criminal background checks for academic student employees. Now, the financial offer to PhD students will have language that is in line with the types of offers that we give to staff. These typically have language that says the offer is contingent on successfully completing a criminal background check. The dean strongly recommended that all departments in the college adopt this policy. When someone accepts an offer, central HR can do a background check. If any felony convictions come back that are of concern, then HR would discuss this with Debbie as the HR manager. Debbie would discuss with Jim. Background check results are NOT information that would be widely disseminated in the department. If someone has a conviction that causes concern that they would not be able to complete their job duties, then we would be able to withdraw the financial offer before the student arrives on campus.

This may lead to more significant changes at the grad school. If a prospective student asks you about this, check with Allison, Cole, and Barry about this first.

Francois asked if undergrad student employees and REUs would also have criminal background checks. Jim replied that REUs are not academic student employees, they receive a stipend. They would not be subject to a background check. In the executive office, yes all employees except faculty have background checks. This will be an issue for people participating in youth programs at UW, anyone volunteering where there are individuals under the age of 18. This is a large share of the faculty and people in the department. The college is working on new policies that provide stipulations for things like student organizations. There is guidance in terms of the number of hours worked for when this is necessary. Debbie offered this web site.

<https://hr.uw.edu/talent/hiring-process/background-checks/criteria-for-student-volunteer-contractor/>

### **Faculty search update (Pfaendtner)**

Jim thanked everyone for their input at the last faculty meeting. Some candidate interviews will be in-person and some remote. This may change closer to their scheduled visits. Refer to the slide, the schedule is back loaded. It could be because candidates were already booked for January interviews or it could be that they have not yet started preparing for interviews. No one was available in January, and only 1 was available for the first week of February.

If you want to do a zoom visit with the in-person candidates, they will have an office to use for this. There will be hosted meals. The main difference from the traditional visit is that there will not be an all faculty lunch prior to the chalk talk. Instead there will be a smaller lunch in 109 with 3 or 4 faculty.

Jim will send out short surveys so everyone can record their thoughts, since the interviews are so spaced out from each other. Responses will be anonymous. Jim will do a straw poll after the last visit. Everyone please reserve Monday 3/14, 3-5pm, for a closed session to discuss faculty candidates.

Several candidates are not coming on the typical Monday-Tuesday days; we are trying to set it up so most faculty can attend. Andrea will send out more information and details.

Jim recognized that the quarter has been stressful for everyone and this is one more thing to do, but hiring faculty is among the most important things the faculty does together. Jim thanked everyone in advance for being willing to meet the candidates and being responsive to emails.

### **David Beck - reappointment Research Associate Professor (full Professors only)**

Meeting adjourned at 3:55pm