

## Faculty Meeting Minutes (Open session)

January 25, 2021 | 3:45 – 4:45 pm | Benson Hall, Room 109- ZOOM

Attendance:

Meeting start: 3:45 | Adjourn 4:40

### Faculty Present (blank=absent)

Department Chair, Jim Pfaendtner - Present

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

### Others Present

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

## AGENDA

- Announcements and new business – Pfaendtner
- UG course number change – Nance
- Update of the IEB building – Pozzo
- Update to grad recruiting process – DeForest
- Budgeting forecast; legislative session – Schwartz
- Ideas from COE Distinguished Research Agenda subcommittee - Liu

### Announcements and new business – Pfaendtner

The link to watch today's faculty candidate seminar will be sent out.

DeForest lab publishes paper in PNAS on photopatterning cell fate in natural biomaterials, it was also featured in UW News.

### UG course number change – Nance

A faculty vote is required for course changes related to courses offered by Math and Physics. Course content is not changing. Every COE department is affected so COE has initiated a 1503 proposal, which requires a faculty vote.

Jim explained that a 1503 is a form by which you initiate a change in a degree program. This is an omnibus COE proposal that will contain all the changes in all the programs. ChemE does not have a choice in the outcome, but the faculty still have to vote.

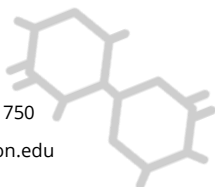
Elizabeth expressed thanks to the college for doing this, there a lot of logistics and updating of course information.

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There were no questions. Elizabeth made a motion to approve, Dan Schwartz seconded. The vote is unanimous to approve.

#### **Update of the IEB building – Pozzo**

COE is prioritizing the interdisciplinary engineering building (IEB), Lilo is on the committee as a representative of ChemE. The committee is determining what the departmental needs are with regard to this building. Each department is creating a priorities list.

The process is going quickly, they would like to start the actual design phase this summer (2021), so now is the time to provide input to the architects/builders. Does anyone have more input to include?

Lilo said the building will be located next to the UW Faculty Club, on a steep slope. It will be a student-centered building so no department will have a large footprint. But it is an opportunity to move classrooms. There had been suggestions for items that Lilo said would not serve ChemE well (maker spaces e.g.).

Jim suggested asking the committee if by the IEB creating additional classrooms, ChemE could recover the 3 classrooms in Benson for ChemE purposes. COE may see it as an investment for ChemE to be able to grow additional capacity for research. Lilo replied that she has not heard this being discussed and that COE may be reluctant. Jim said he will follow up with Pedro about this.

Chad asked if more specific requests could be made, like specific utilities requests (such as pressurized air or steam). Lilo replied that these will be part of the discussion. Andrea can distribute Lilo's document and let people make comments on it. If there are non-standard features that you want, you can note them on the document. Since many departments will be using these labs, the utilities that each require will be part of a more detailed conversation later. Please send requests/comments to Lilo.

Dan said there needs to be a lot of storage space, especially since ChemE is the farthest away and the instructors will need the storage for the quarter they are teaching in the space. Lilo agreed.

Jim thanked Lilo for her work on this and for representing ChemE in these discussions.

#### **Update to grad recruiting process – DeForest**

ChemE has received about 240 PhD applications, which is up slightly from last year. The target, based on faculty input, is 20 new PhD students for next year. Admissions are challenging because this would be a slightly larger class than typical, and because of the virtual format. Cole thanked those who have stepped up to help, and reiterated that he would still like more help with admissions.

For admissions, they are trying to minimize the amount of time people are on zoom. So there will be asynchronous and synchronous components. Asynchronous components will be pre-recorded

replacements of things that are typically done as a lecture during the open house. Recruits can watch these in the week leading up to the in-person events.

Note that there is a new item for the asynchronous part; each faculty would put together a short video summary of what their group is about. It would help the students choose which faculty they want to meet with.

Also new this year, to capture the walk-through experience of being on campus, there will be 360 degree photos of the lab spaces in Benson and MoLES. Cole will be contacting faculty for access to labs to take photos.

For the synchronous events, the individual meetings with faculty do not have to occur exclusively on March 5.

Please reach out to Cole with suggestions.

David Bergsman asked if the poster session is a display of grad student work. Cole replied that in the past it has been either a grad student presenting a poster of their work or one poster to highlight the work of the lab. For junior faculty that do not have established research groups yet, it would be appropriate to have a poster. Jim added that it is standard for the first year or two.

Jim asked if the synchronous social event would include faculty. Cole said yes it includes faculty and current students.

Jim asked about the buddy system, will buddies be paired by potential research interests? Cole said yes and that as part of the application review that was instituted last year, they are reviewing by committee. So applicants have already been potentially assigned to PIs. Cole will email everyone with suggested language for emailing candidates, so that faculty can copy-and-paste. The individual efforts are low-cost and will help create a welcoming environment when there is no in-person interaction.

Jim reiterated that if you feel you are unable to do that for the candidates, please let Cole know because it is important that there are people who are responsive within hopefully 24 hours. Please let Cole and Allison know what kind of feedback you are getting from candidates, it is very helpful. We will have a much better idea if we know a student is being responsive to emails. If a student is not being responsive, probably there is a low chance of them accepting, which will affect Cole's decision to make additional offers.

Jim added that all faculty are welcome to participate and help, even if they are not planning on accepting new PhD students

**Budgeting forecast; legislative session – Schwartz**

Dan reported on the faculty senate, where President Cauce discussed language in the governor's budget that addressed potential furloughs and budget/salary cuts for faculty, staff, and others. She was optimistic, the state outlook is improving, she thought UW and the state legislature would not be going in that direction. She is optimistic.

#### **Ideas from COE Distinguished Research Agenda subcommittee - Liu**

Jun presented on the activities of the DRA subcommittee. A discussion followed.

Jim added that now is the time to add comments. Francois said we should take stock of what we can and cannot do, how we can leverage our ecosystem. He suggested the subcommittee think about how other universities in the PNW might contribute.

Jim said that he hopes the result will be an opportunity for the dean and administrators to get more resources. A draft version of the strategic plan will be shared in March and a comment period will follow. Elizabeth co-chairs another subcommittee on DEIS, they will also be reporting. Jim thanked all faculty and staff who have been participating.

Dan asked how to involve other UW colleges, integration beyond engineering/technology. Jun replied that other schools are involved. And there is a subcommittee for partnership and collaboration. Elizabeth added that Partnerships, Education, and DEIS have all collaborated together to integrate other UW entities. There are 7 committees.

Francois added that it is important to communicate the achievements of faculty and the college in a way that reaches different audiences.

Jim adjourned the meeting at 4:40PM.