

Faculty Meeting Minutes (Open session)

February 22, 2021 | 3:45 - 4:45 pm | ZOOM

Attendance:

Meeting start: 3:45 | Adjourn 4:42

Faculty Present (blank=absent)

Department Chair, Jim Pfaendtner - Present

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

Others Present

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

Announcements

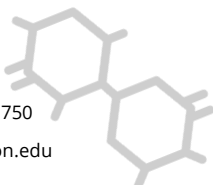
- Duyen Tran (Jenekhe group) has been selected for the 2021 ACS "Excellence in Graduate Polymer Research" Symposium
- John Berg announced that the virtual student chapter AIChE meeting, which will be hosted by British Columbia, will be April 30 and May 1, 2021. If anyone has any interest in this, let John know. UW is scheduled to host the event in 2022. John has started planning for this, the planning should start around the first of the year to book venues etc. Jim offered to find a co-chair to help and so that the department could gain the knowledge for doing this.

UG course number change - Nance

A discussion of working on aligning what the program requirements say on paper and what is being done in practice.

Lilo asked if some of the elective courses should be restricted. Elizabeth said this is being discussed. Nicole Minkoff said that there needs to be alignment with the community colleges and technical colleges. It would be helpful to have CSE 160 as a choice, but restricting courses would make it hard for transfer students coming from schools where this may not be offered. Advisors are often asked if there is a preferred course, so they could in this way encourage students to take CSE 160.

Jim reminded everyone that ChemE 375 is moving to the spring quarter, starting this year. Jim will teach it and is reformulating it to have a strong Python focus. The long-term vision is to have a ChemE 475 as an elective. Moving 375 to the spring will partially address this.



Dave Beck said that the CSE 160 pipeline can accommodate about 25% of the students that the 142 pipeline can. So we need to have both for now, even if we have a preference for one, to accommodate the demand.

Jim said it is ok for students to learn multiple languages, it reinforces fundamental concepts about programming.

Lilo made a motion to vote, Stephanie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

PhD Graduate Recruiting - DeForest

Lilo requested the list of the offers that went out and the buddy assignments. Cole will send out the information.

Jim asked why the admit pool was larger than in years past. Cole said they admitted more in part because they are targeting a larger first year class based on faculty needs. There is uncertainty about who will be likely to participate in the virtual open house, it requires less time for the admits to attend than an in-person format. Cole thinks there is a good chance of getting the targeted recruiting numbers.

Jim thanked all who worked on this. Please let Jim know if you will not be able to be responsive to the emails that Cole and Allison send.

Moulton Awards - Pfaendtner

An email ballot and the slides will be sent out.

Industry award

Dan Schwartz added to the info about Mark Lawrence and said Mark is very engaged with UW. He has served on CoMotion boards, in addition to his ChemE endowment. His impact has been notable.

John Berg nominated Brett Snyder for the industry award (no slide). Brett Snyder did his PhD with John and graduated in about 1996. He is chairman and CEO of WL Gore. The vote on the industry award will be held until the info about Brett can be sent out.

Academia award

Jim will email the information for voting. He received no nominations, but he has an idea and will send an email.

Early Career award

The vote that will go out will just be for the Early Career award for now. There will be more information forthcoming.

Update on ChemE professional learning program partnership with GIX - Pfaendtner

One of the goals in GIX is to work with units on campus to develop Professional Learning Programs (PLPs). Jim said there is interest in industry in training and workshops. This will generate revenue for ChemE if successful. Jim shared the informational flyer. Wesley Buckner would teach the workshops.

The target enrollment is 50 people. Jim does not know how much revenue it will generate.

Dan asked if the program is branded ChemE or is it all GIX. Jim said it is branded as a partnership of ChemE and GIX.

Stephanie asked how long each workshop will last. Jim said each workshop is 20 hours/week, 60 contact hours total for the 3 workshops. This is identical to two 3-credit courses. The long-term vision is to allow people who complete these 3 workshops to get UW credit for ChemE 545 and 546. It is the same content just delivered in a different mode.

Dan asked about Wesley. Jim said Wesley has been teaching courses and workshops and developing curricula.

Dave Beck pointed out that the curriculum transfer is 2-way. Wes develops content that ChemE hasn't typically had so ChemE benefits.

Jim said it is important that this would not use full-time ChemE teaching resources, it will not be taking away from anything that ChemE does. The Dean does not expect the faculty who are involved in research and teaching to be doing the work to generate revenue. Partnering with other groups on campus is a good way to accomplish this.

Chad asked about the courses building on each other. Are we worried about people taking the 2nd and 3rd workshops? Jim said the courses are "sliced" in such a way that if people already have the knowledge that is covered in a workshop, they might skip that one. Cohort 1 will not yet have the UW credit option, but when that is available it will probably encourage people to take all 3.

Jim will provide an update on what enrollments look like and an idea of what the revenue impact is for the department.

Discussion of optimizing elective offerings - Pfaendtner

Discussion of how to be more efficient with elective offerings in a way that improves the grad student experience and improves the offering of electives to undergrads.

Hugh said it's important for new faculty to be able to teach an elective on whatever they want to teach, and the department should not inhibit them from teaching what they want. Jim said the new faculty could be coached that the new elective needs to enroll a lot of students, comparable to the

other electives in the department. It isn't sustainable to keep adding new courses without removing others.

Lilo pointed out that ChemE offers one category of electives that are hyper-specific and cater to a small number of students. The department also needs to offer electives that are foundational and teach more students. Faculty need to discuss what those courses will be and what textbooks will be used. For example, there is not a polymer thermodynamics class on campus. Nor is there a basic electro-chemistry class. In the more advanced, specific courses, the students don't have a grasp of the fundamental concepts because of a lack of foundational classes on those subjects.

David Bergsman asked if there are courses that span the different research clusters.

Jim said the department should be thinking about the efficiency of electives and trying to offer ones that enroll the most people.

Lilo said this will train the students better which will be a benefit to the faculty and to research groups.

Chad asked if there is any benefit to having students from outside the department take ChemE courses. Jim said there is no economic benefit.

Stephanie proposed 2 main courses and 1 free elective that could change year to year. She asked how enrollment is measured.

Jim has data over the last 5 years of student credit hours. The workload model does not include data about how many students are taught in class. But it can be revised to include this, and measure efficiency as an instructor, and look at whether faculty are teaching courses that enroll students. The dean and provost are looking into this - to what degree are tenured faculty teaching electives that have low enrollment.

Stephanie asked how, with 15 new grad students per year, there can be high enrollment in electives. Jim replied that they will look more at people's overall teaching workload. There are also MS students who need electives. The workload needs to be evenly shared. Jim said that, for example, Chemistry successfully operates with a 2-class-per-year model for faculty who are active researchers. There are potential gains for the department.

Jim wants to get feedback from faculty. Hugh proposed that there be Zoom breakout groups based on research clusters at a faculty meeting to find out what is foundational to that group. Jim agreed and will add it to a faculty meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:42.