

Faculty Meeting Minutes (Open session)

April 5, 2021 | 3:45 – 4:45 pm | Benson Hall, Room 109- ZOOM

Attendance:

Meeting start 3:45 | Adjourn 4:17

Faculty Present (blank=absent)

Department Chair, Jim Pfaendtner - Present

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

Others Present

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

AGENDA

- Announcements
- Moulton award
- New Out-of-State Work policy
- COVID update
- Faculty search update (TT + teaching prof)

Announcements - Pfaendtner

Chad Curtis has accepted a job as Assistant Professor at Nevada State College (DS teaching position). Congrats, Chad!

Jeremy Filteau, co-advised by Elizabeth Nance and Cole DeForest, received the ITHS TL-1 fellowship.

Elizabeth Nance has been named Associate Editor of Bioengineering & Translational Medicine.

Diego Alba Burano from the Carothers group has won an NSF GRFP. Also, incoming 1st year PhD student Sydney Floryanzia won an NSF GRFP.

UW ChemE department is #22 in the U.S. News & World Report ranking; up one spot from last year. There is a 4 way tie at 22: UW, UCLA, Penn State, Columbia; #26 Rice/UFL; #21 NCSU

Cole reported on PhD recruiting. The decision deadline for admitted students is April 15. There are 13 committed, about 30 outstanding. Cole asked the faculty to please reach out to their assigned applicants one more time. The Google spreadsheet is up to date about who has declined/accepted offers so far. Jim thanked Cole and the admissions team for a great job.

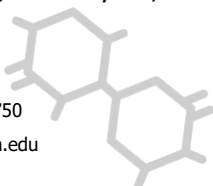
Alumni Awards - Pfaendtner

Jim thanked John Berg for nominating Bret Snyder, this year's Moulton Industry Award winner.

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Box 351750 105 Benson Hall Seattle, WA 98195-1750
206.543.2250 fax 206.543.3778 cheme.washington.edu

Knowledge and Solutions for a Changing World



Hugh Hillhouse is the winner of the Academia Award. Coincidentally, he and Bret were lab mates. The first recipient of the new Early Career Award is Líney Árnadóttir.

The Industry Award winner will speak at graduation. The Academia and Early Career winners will speak in the Autumn at either the grad symposium or the grad awards day.

Out of State Work Policy – Pfaendtner and Carnes

New COE policy requires approval for working full-time in a state other than Washington.

See <https://www.engr.washington.edu/mycoe/staff/managing/out-of-state-work-policy> and ask Debbie/Andrea if you or your staff are affected.

Debbie said it is actually a UW policy, not COE. But the dean approves the requests. This concerns full-time employees who live in another state or are relocating to another state.

Debbie reminded everyone that grad students are employees.

COVID Update – Pfaendtner

If you are eligible for the COVID vaccine and cannot find an appointment, ask Jim, he has successfully helped people find appointments.

In-person lab research is still the priority, faculty must meet obligations to sponsors. Because in-person, limited activities require physical distancing, Benson Hall will not accommodate a lot of activity due to the infrastructure. There may be some small exceptions.

This spring, in-person office hours were suggested, or creating some study space for students. But there are no plans to open the Benson computer lounge or the lobby. The COVID site supervisor must still be on site. Benson will probably not be opened for educational experiences.

Registered student organizations who want to do in-person activities can contact the college to see if that is possible.

So there will be no imminent major changes, other than a gradual return to the office for some faculty.

B17 was opened 3 months ago and has operated safely. Some of Jim's group are using it regularly. If your groups are interested in in-person activities for writing or working away from home, it can possibly be accommodated. Safety plans will be necessary for each new space that opens. The next logical space to consider would be the 2nd floor space that is used by Jim's, Dan's, and Stephanie's students. Other student office spaces may also be eligible.

Lilo asked if students need to be justified as "critical workers" to work in Benson. Jim said no. Undergrad research is at the purview of the PI once a safety plan is in place and a space has operated safely for 2 weeks. The list is still called the Critical Personnel list. All research is available for in-person activities, it no longer has to be justified. Everyone still has to be on an occupancy calendar and do the online COVID attestation and safety training. Make sure that their names are added to the list.

Stu asked about 499 students, who are not employees. Jim said they fall under the PIs lab safety plan because they are doing supervised instruction.

But if they are not a UW employee they cannot use Workday to do the COVID attestation. There is a different online attestation form, it is accessible on the ChemE web site.

Debbie said that attestations are not required for students. If a student brings it up, tell them the department is keeping track of student non-employees.

Stu asked if there is any information about Autumn 2021. Jim reported that there is a plan to return to in-person activities. But it can only happen if the physical distancing requirements are ended. Classrooms would be full and physical distancing could not be maintained. Jim said a hybrid model would not work well and hopes it will not happen.

The large lecture halls will likely not be operating at capacity at least for Autumn quarter. There should be a clearer picture by July.

The remote work authorization has been extended to September 10, 2021. ChemE will likely have a phased transition to bring staff back to work.

There will be no in-person graduation ceremonies, including small departmental graduations. It is possible to have a photo booth, for example, if graduates want to come by for an individual picture. There will be no students waiting in lines to receive diplomas. ChemE will do a virtual ceremony again this year. More information will follow.

Faculty Search Update – Pfaendtner

Faculty will be receiving an email about a new search. The department was authorized for a search for a Teaching Assistant Professor position after Andy Kim left last year. It is not a tenure-track position but it is designed to be a long-term position for faculty focusing on teaching. Because it is a longer-term contract it will be a national search, the position will be posted soon. Kyle Caldwell has been doing excellent work in this position. Contact Jim if you have any questions about this. Hopefully by the end of May, it will be brought to the faculty for consideration.

A discussion of the candidates and outstanding job offers took place.

The meeting adjourned at 4:17.