

Faculty Meeting Minutes (Open session)

April 25, 2022 | 2:30 - 3:30 pm | Benson Hall Room 109 and ZOOM

Attendance:

Meeting start: 2:30 | Adjourn 3:22

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		Hugh Hillhouse	P	Shachi Mittal	P	Daniel Schwartz	P	Cao Guozhong
David Beck		Vince Holmberg		Elizabeth Nance	P	Eric Stuve	P	Jonathan Posner
John Berg	P	Samson Jenekhe	P	Rene Overney	P	Stephanie Valleau		Charles Sleicher
David Bergsman		Mary Lidstrom	P	Lilo Pozzo				
James Carothers		Jun Liu		Buddy Ratner	P			

Others Present

Debbie Carnes	Dave Drischell	Barry Wall		
Lindsey Doermann	Andrea Gleichweith			

AGENDA

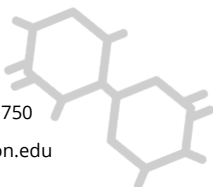
- Approval of minutes from 3/7/2022 faculty meeting
- Announcements/updates
- Capstones and faculty service (Pfaendtner)
- Shared Instrument Facility website (Doermann/Rutz)
- Vote on retirement of course numbers
- Graduate admissions update (DeForest)
- Student prelim exam vote
- Adjunct professor discussion
- Faculty emeritus vote

Approval of minutes from 3/7/2022 faculty meeting

No changes or corrections. Minutes are approved

Announcements/updates

- John Berg reported on the AIChE regional student conference which was hosted by UW last weekend. 45 students from UW and other area universities participated. Our team won the ChemE Jeopardy competition and qualified to compete at the national conference in Phoenix. John Bauer of the Berg Lab took second place in the paper competition. Megan Wong, a sophomore in the Nance Lab, took second place in the poster competition. Jim acknowledged the amount of hard work that went into the conference and offered congrats.
- Please complete the quarterly department climate survey and remind your grad students and postdocs to do the same.
- A teaching survey will be coming out later this week. Jim and Elizabeth encouraged everyone to please be responsive and fill it out ASAP to help with planning.



- The U.S. News and World Report 2023 graduate program rankings came out recently. UW ChemE is in a 4-way tie for 20th overall (with UCLA, NC State, and Johns Hopkins) and is 11th for public universities. We are up from 22nd in 2022 and 23rd in 2020 and 2021. (In 2023, 14th = tie among CU Boulder, Northwestern, Purdue, Cornell, and CMU; 19th = Penn; and 24th = Columbia, Penn State, and Rice.)
- Cole added in the Zoom chat that DYSS applications are open and due May 22. Please help advertise to your networks. It will be in person this year. Thanks to Jorge and Stéphanie for spearheading efforts this year.

Capstones and faculty service (Pfaendtner)

We've seen huge year-on-year growth in the capstone program. Big thanks to Ben, who is spearheading the program and also mentors the teams. We are investing 100% of proceeds from the program into the faculty, and growing to 15 projects will cover ~75% of our senior class and provide ~2/3% of FTE for new teaching faculty and TA support for capstones. Since more technical expertise and guidance can make the program even more successful, next year we will call on faculty to advise a project in their research area (max 10 hours/quarter in winter and spring). This will support Ben's teaching and count toward faculty departmental service. A request is forthcoming— this small amount of work from everyone will make a big difference in the program.

Eric Stuve asked if there's been thought given to ABET ramifications. Will a future ABET evaluator raise eyebrows about how non-traditional design projects are measured? Stu Adler responded that as long as instructors are aware of what they have to measure, then it's not a big deal. If students work in teams on projects, he thinks it should work. Dan Schwartz said he was chair at a time when a quarter of students were doing alternative design work, and they heard no concerns from ABET. Stu added that all was well in the most recent evaluation, too.

Jim noted that these programs are growing all around the college and have to be aligned with ABET requirements. Ben doesn't have major concerns: things are going well, and we can adapt if we need to. Jim said we might pay more attention if our students are participating in teams led by other departments. Ben said the College is working to unify how multidisciplinary projects are evaluated.

Shared Instrument Facility website (Doermann/Rutz)

Ben showed a new section on the department website for Research and Fabrication Facilities. He and Lindsey have been building this out. Most information for shared instruments in the Bindra Lab is up online. We have a start on Machine Shop equipment based on photos and information Kameron put together. We'd also like to advertise instruments in individual faculty labs that are available for other campus and industry users.

Ben navigated to the landing page for the Bindra Lab, then showed a page for one of the instruments, which contains some specs and a link to the Clustermarket tool for reservations.

Dan Schwartz asked if we might use CORAL for booking, since a lot of shared instrument facilities on campus already use it. It is clunky, but some people already know how to use it, and we may receive

College support since it's more centralized. Ben said he spoke with many people from MAF and other Collaboration Core facilities. Lara Gamble had pushed him away from CORAL because of its clunkiness, but he will revisit.

Eric asked if we could create a list of facilities in a format that's easy for everyone to use in NSF grants. Others agreed this was a good idea.

Debbie added that Kameron may have limited time to help with this project while we find and onboard his replacement.

Hugh Hillhouse noted that the new section is difficult to find on the mobile version of the website: can we find a way to make it more prominent?

Lindsey added that more content can be added to pages, e.g. note if the equipment was an important part of a published paper, student projects, etc.

Cole asked about booking equipment that's needed for classes, and Ben said to go ahead and block out time on the calendars.

Vote on retirement of course numbers (Nance)

The list of proposed courses to retire was sent out ahead of time. The Undergrad Committee reviewed all courses and proposed retiring these because they haven't been taught since the 70's or 80's, or they've been updated and now exist under different course numbers. This clean-up will be helpful for students: it's confusing because they can still see these old courses in searches.

A faculty vote is required to retire the courses. There were no comments or questions on the matter.

Elizabeth motioned to retire all of the courses on the list. Cole seconded. Jim asked if there was additional discussion, and there was none. The motion passed unanimously.

Thanks to Dave Drischell for digging through 50 years of catalogs to come up with this list!

Update on grad admissions (DeForest)

The target for PhD admissions was 12-15, based on faculty surveying from the fall, and we have 13-14 PhD students committed to start in the fall (one may start next fall). We organized two visit weekends:

- 1 in-person (traditional) — 20 came, 10 accepted from this crew
- 1 virtual — 10 participated, 2 accepted
- 2 waitlist offers made on April 8 — 2 accepted

This is a strong group, with students coming from top programs. In many cases, we recruited them away from much higher ranked schools. The cohort includes 4 NSF GRFP recipients, 2 Dean's Fellows, and 1 ARCS recipient. Recruiting was enhanced by our buddy system (both faculty and

students), showcasing our strong sense of community, and the synchronous and asynchronous content for visit weekends, which highlighted research programs and an overall spirit of collaboration and comradery. We also added a new financial incentive for students coming in with fellowships, which is in line what peer institutions do. Cole thinks this made a big difference.

Applications this year were just slightly down. We saw ~30% yield from admitted students, with 14 total accepts. A chart showing students' interest areas and prior institutions was shown. This will be distributed later.

Cole thanked everyone for all their efforts— it's great to hit our target numbers again!

Jonathan Posner asked where the fellowship top-off funds are coming from. Jim said we don't have a formal policy for this yet, but he's committed at least 50% of it from the chair's discretionary fund. He will be asking faculty to come up with the rest of it. He hopes this will not be controversial, since it is a huge positive to get these top students and it should be well worth the price. Jim said we may wait to formalize a policy, given that we also need to have a broader conversation about stipend levels given inflation and cost of living. Other institutions are raising stipends, and Jim thinks we may need to find a way to get to \$40k/year for PhD students.

Discussion and vote on student preliminary exam (DeForest/Wall)

Hugh Hillhouse made a motion, Elizabeth Nance seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion of adjunct appointment

Discussion of professor emerita status for Mary Lidstrom

Mary is retiring at the end of Spring quarter. There will be a vote on giving her emerita status.

Meeting adjourned at 3:22