

# Chemical Engineering Faculty Meeting Minutes (Open session)

April 22, 2019 | 2:30 - 3:30 pm | Benson Hall room 109

Attendance

Meeting start: 2:30 | Adjourn: 3:30

## Faculty Present (blank=absent)

Department Chair, Jim Pfaendtner – Excused  
Meeting was facilitated by Prof. Holt

Stu Adler	P	James Carothers		Brad Holt	P	Jun Liu		Buddy Ratner	
Graham Allan		Dave Castner	P	Samson Jenekhe	P	Elizabeth Nance	E	Daniel Schwartz	P
François Baneyx	P	Cole DeForest	P	Shaoyi Jiang		Rene Overney	P	Eric Stuve	P
David Beck	E	Hugh Hillhouse	E	Andy Kim	P	Jonathan Posner		Venkat Subramanian	
John Berg	P	Vincent Holmberg	P	Mary Lidstrom	-	Lilo Pozzo	P	Qiuming Yu	P

## Others Present

Stephanie Ashby	Nicole Minkoff	Dave Drischell		Emily Rhodes (AIChE)	Andrea Joseph (ACES)
Lindsey Doermann	Debbie Carnes			Victoria Dahl (WiChE)	Georges Simos (AIChE)

## Announcements and new Business – Holt

- Please send seminar nominations to Elizabeth this week
- ABET materials requests – Most important publications/presentations in past 5 years
  - List of non-academic experience
  - Course syllabuses

## PhD Recruitment Discussion (Stuve)

Prof. Stuve shared concerns about low PhD admissions for AY 2019-20, and led a discussion with faculty to gather ideas for improving numbers at the next round of recruitment. He shared information (slides) on primary reasons why those offered admission declined, and statistics on GPAs of those admitted/declined. He also noted that most other schools selected are on the East Coast, and in the ChemE top 10. Most of the accepted applicants had a GPA of 3.85 or higher, while the lower range was 3.6.

Grad Advisor Allison Sherril surveyed those who declined, and found that the #1 factor pushing students away from UW and drawing them to other institutions was a limited number of projects/recruiting professors in interest area at UW and more of these projects/recruiting professors at other schools. Most surveyed indicated that they “really liked UW students and faculty”. For some, “UW was a close 2<sup>nd</sup> choice”, and several felt that they “didn’t fit in (academically/interest-wise) at UW”. The faculty discussed how they might change recruitment practices to gather more acceptances.

**Positive messaging about acceptance to the program:** Recruits noticed some hesitance from faculty when they asked how many would be accepted. Prof Baneyx suggested that when asked this question, a positive message such as “Historically, I have taken X students per year, or I intend to take X students, I have X projects in the pipeline and I am expecting funding for X...” could be a good way to answer this. Prof Stuve offered that the department could share/decide how many students would be accepted into each group/area, and added to Prof Baneyx’ message: “...and in the X area, we intend to take X students...” to provide more options/interest for the recruit.

## Other suggestions:

- Increase duration of faculty meetings with recruits
- Hold more faculty recruiting events
- Ask current students to share/promote projects they are working on with recruits
- Share your most exciting projects with recruits
- go back to “Cluster” and ask for big picture of projects

## Direct to College Admissions (DTC) – Department to add 15 undergrads for AY 2019-20? Discussion (Holt)

Prof Holt led faculty in a discussion to decide if the department should increase undergrad enrollment by 15 students next year. CoE has asked ChemE if we can do this next year due to larger than anticipated DTC enrollments. He noted the potential issues of a 20% workload increase and the need for more sections in several classes, including 436,455,480, 460, and Design. There could also be issues with scheduling and physical space. CoE has offered to mitigate by funding five TA slots.

# Chemical Engineering Faculty Meeting Minutes (Open session)

April 22, 2019 | 2:30 - 3:30 pm | Benson Hall room 109

**There was a general discussion about adding sections/teaching time which included the following points:**

- We could create programs abroad (China, Toulouse) (U-ops abroad)
- Bottlenecks: polymer/colloids labs, 437/460 – would need to add a polymers section
- Split 485 into 2 sections
- Summer courses could be an option

**This was followed by a discussion of funding and support from CoE:**

- A faculty asked if this was a long term enrollment increase, or just a one-time increase, and how much support would be provided to grow the department.
- Another faculty shared that CoE is receiving new funding from the state, and that the Department should be cautious to accept 15 more until there is a commitment for sufficient resources, as there is a possibility that an additional 15 could become the baseline for ChemE enrollment without additional funding/support to grow as needed. There was some concern that the department does not have enough resources to split classes without additional faculty/funding.
- One professor suggested creating a tiered plan for adding a faculty line, and another suggested demonstrating the cost per student to determine how much funding we would need. The strategy should be to ask for funds, rather than TA lines, so the department can be flexible about how these resources would be used. The message should be that we are willing to take the extra 15, and illustrate clearly what we would need to do so.

The discussion concluded with Prof Holt asking those present to discuss with colleagues, and that the faculty will make a formal decision on whether to take an additional 15 students at either the 5/20/19 or 6/3/19 faculty meeting.