

Chemical Engineering Faculty Meeting- Open session

May 21, 2018 | 2:30 - 3:30 pm | Benson Hall room 109 | 2:30 - 3:30 pm

Attendance

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

Faculty Present (blank=absent)

Department Chair, Francois Baneux - Present

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

Others Present

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------------------|--|--|--|
| Stephanie Ashby | Dave Drischell | Debbie Carnes | | | |
| Redeen Duran (WChE) | Victor Hu (ACES) | Harrison Sarsito (AIChE) | | | |

Announcements and new Business

Baneux

Post Doc unionization

- Possible walkout during finals week
- 5/14 vote to unionize with UAW (United Auto Workers) – unionization to follow in 1-2 years
- 1,100 postdocs at UW, 89% of unchallenged ballots were in favor of unionization
- The department is conducting student salary benchmarking studies, the results of which will be shared at a later date.

Faculty and staff raises

- There is a 2% pool for faculty and staff raises. There is potentially an additional 1% unit adjustment for faculty.

Advisory Board Debrief

- Francois shared a brief overview of the Advisory Board meeting of 5/17-5/18 with the faculty, including the Board's recommendation that the Department continue to invest time and resources in the data science strategic initiative. The Board suggested that the next steps in planning are setting target dates and measurable goals, and to focus on educational objectives for the undergrad program and concentrate more efforts on DS in the graduate programs.
- Cole DeForest wins NSF CBET award
- Venkat Subramanian was named the 2018 ECS Fellow at the 2018 ECS conference in Seattle
- Professor David Castner will retire in June of 2019. He will take an Emeritus appointment, continue to do research and to teach.

Faculty Recruitment Ad Approval – François Baneux

In light of Prof. Castner's retirement, ChemE will begin the recruitment process for one or two new faculty. François shared a proposed job announcement draft with the faculty, and after discussion with particular attention to the description of the desired teaching and research background, edits were made and final job description language was agreed upon by those in attendance. The modified version of the ad will be sent to the Dean for approval as the first step in the hiring process.

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Graduate Admissions Update – Stuve

Prof. Stuve, Graduate Committee Chair, provided statistics on this year's PhD and MS admissions. He noted that this is a successful year, with 11 PhD acceptances (target was 9), and 18 MS acceptances. PhD class average GPA is 3.83, and there is a 60/40 M/F ratio. Of the 18 new MS students, 75% of the class is international. A note of concern was given about 4 of the PhD students being from UW (1 BS and 3 MS). Prof. Stuve advocated for policy to be made to lower the occurrence of this, which is often due to faculty requesting the student specifically to continue. It was agreed that further discussion of this issue is needed, and the topic will be added to the Faculty Retreat agenda for September 2018.

Updates to Optional Specialty Areas for Undergrads - Holt

Undergraduate Committee Chair, Brad Holt shared a handout with proposed updates to undergraduate specialty area programs. He noted that in the updated program, advisers don't "figure out the classes" for the students, instead, students follow recommended course groupings (9 credits total) under a specialty area category, and then propose to department that they receive acknowledgement for their work. Prof. Holt will send the handout to all via email to collect comments and feedback, and the faculty will vote on whether or not to adopt the program changes at the next faculty meeting on June 4, 2018.

Undergraduate Data Science Survey

François shared results of a data science survey taken by xx undergraduate students. The survey was conducted to measure interest in data science learning and importance within this group. François provided a handout that included all survey questions and scores for each answer, and shared a slide with main takeaways:

Of 110 respondents, 94% believe there should be more data science opportunities for BS ChemE Students.

Top reasons given include:

- Improve job outlook for students
- "Familiarity with data manipulation and software is essential to modern engineering."
- Over 52% of the respondents report that they have taken or are planning to take more programming courses than are required for the BS ChemE.
- When asked about interest in a 5th year master's program, 37% reported they would definitely be interested and an additional 43% reported they may be interested.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 pm