

Chemical Engineering Faculty Meeting - Minutes

October 23, 2017 | 2:30 - 3:30 pm | Benson Hall room 109

Attendance

Faculty Present (blank=absent)

Department Chair, Francois Baneyx - Present

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

Others Present

Stephanie Ashby	Paige Bennett (AIChE)	Jesse Chiem	Dave Drischell	Brian Gerwe (ACES)	Amanda Levenson (WChE)
Nicole Minkoff	Joanne Tall				

Announcements and new Business

- Postdocs are taking the first steps towards unionization.
 - 30 have signed up, which is enough to move to the next step in the unionization process
- IP "cliff" update
 - Due to loss of funding for Co-Motion, there has been a negative impact on provisional to real patents conversion and number of patents filed.
 - A committee is being formed to look into this
- Jonathan Posner with Jianzhu Yin (UW Alum), and Veronica Santos (UCLA) were featured in UW News for development of flexible sensor "skin" for robotics and prosthetics.

Graduate Awards nominations (Stuve)

- November 7, 2017 is the Grad Awards Day
 - Send nominations with CV and descriptive paragraph to Eric Stuve

Faculty feedback on Grad Symposium (Brian Gerwe – ACES)

- Location
 - Changes every year, Kane, Mary Gates, etc.- more consistency would be good
 - Intellectual House (this year's location) had bad acoustics, hard to hear speakers
 - Look into booking MoIES new event space (recommend several years in advance, reserve multiple years) no charge for this space
- Date /Timing of Event
 - Monday of week that classes start is not a good date. Thursdays in first week of classes may be best.
 - Optimize schedule for students and external visitors; check with industry people re: their schedules
- Communications and publicity
 - Send reminder emails the day before and day of
 - Students should personally invite advisors / talk to faculty about the event
 - Distribute / post flyers with schedule (titles of talks / speaker names), ask ChemE to post to events calendar, post in other departments
 - Request RSVPs, make the invitation more personal – many faculty have "invitation overload" this time of year
- The event seemed to be by grads, for grads – involve faculty for more participation and contributions
- Communicate with last year's organizer for advice, ways to improve, what worked well, etc.

Update on Proposals and Funding (Carnes)

- Debbie absent so this will be handled at the next meeting.
- We have gotten \$3M in funding actions, which is good for the first part of the year.

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Ten Year Review: Recommendations of Candidates and proposed questions (Holt)

Proposed Questions - We need to identify 3 – 5 questions in the next month (Discussion)

- Background and Goal: The 10 year review is conducted by the grad school and evaluates each department every 10 years. The review committee is formed in part by people we suggest. There are 2 members from UW, 2 from outside UW on committee. The questions we choose will be the focus of the review. We provide the material, the review committee assess department goals, aspirations and achievements to provide us with guidance for the next ten years. Our role is to provide a reference to what we have done and what issues we have. We provide background and frame questions. The review committee provides answers.
 - Comment: It was suggested that we take a look at the least obvious questions – those that we cannot easily answer ourselves – where do we want guidance and feedback?
 - Comment: Questions we present could be a strategic opportunity to address the department's needs with the Dean and President.
- Discussion of questions presented at the meeting (The list of questions is attached for reference. (#) indicates Question # under listed topic)
 - Facilities and Support - How can we grow, sustain, facilities?
 - Is diversity adequate, do we have resources to increase this? (7)(3)(6) were discussed
 - Educational
 - How can we sustain entrepreneurship and laboratories?
 - How do we get 1st year support for grads?(4)(1)
 - Drive for Data Science in ChemE degree – students feel their exposure is disjointed now, and want it more standardized. (3)
 - Employment, careers for students need to be considered.
 - NSF funding – decrease in purchasing power in these grants, not keeping up with costs. What can we do today to address that? Hugh – reformulate question and send to Brad.
 - All grad student funding across engineering is getting worse - how do we sustain a high impact research program within current context?
 - Curricular aspect – is it relevant? Jobs and donors are investing in students to make the most important impact to get competitive jobs.

Next Steps: Email Brad with other thoughts. He and Francois will compile.

Review Committee Selection

- We provide list of suggested review committee members (8 UW and 8 external) ranked by preference and send to Dean for approval / final selection. Internal selections must include one Dept. Chair.
- We would like industry members on the committee, but it can be difficult to get approval from Dean's office for this.
- Suggested committee members:
 - Jerry Pollack, Per Reinhall
 - Biotech – software industry – John Baback,
 - Amazon or Data Science - Jim Riley
 - Matt Turrell, Steve Wozniack
 - Additional faculty on campus: Mike Heinekey (Chemistry), Julian Marshal
 - Bio Chair - Tom Daniels
 - Jim Bassingwaighte, Joe Mahoney, Karl Bohringer, Paul Hopkins

Next Steps: Send committee candidate names to Brad Holt

3:20 Closed Session - All voting faculty
Discussion and Vote - (affiliate appointment, adjunct appointment)

3:30 Adjourn

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Ten year review questions for discussion

Facilities and support

1. Can the Department's education and research thrive within the existing resources?
2. How can the Department move into its proposed areas of growth within the existing resources?
3. Do we have the resources to increase our PhD production?
4. How do we upgrade facilities?
5. Are we doing everything possible to improve our facilities?
6. How well does the department's current space meet its research and teaching needs?
 - a. What reallocation or renovation could be done to accomplish the department's goals?
 - b. What are the department's long-term space needs?
7. Is the faculty size, composition and diversity adequate to support the department's goals?
8. Are the number, composition and expertise of departmental staff sufficient to meet the department's strategic goals and faculty members' and students' needs?

Master's Program

1. How do we create a globally impactful master's program (like GIX)?

Entrepreneur

1. How can we create a sustainable entrepreneur undergraduate or graduate program?

Research Quality

1. How do we generate funding for 1st year graduate students?
2. How should we enhance the quality of our graduate students?

Research Directions

1. What new strategic directions should the department pursue while enhancing collaborative research and creating impactful large-scale innovation to distinguish itself from its peers?
2. What is the core competence of the department?
 - a. What are our unique research strengths?
 - b. How do we maintain the core and existing strengths while pursuing new strategic directions?
3. What synergies in the university, College of Engineering, and region can our department leverage to support our core competencies and strategic research directions

Educational Directions

1. What are strategic areas that we should be training student in now to enable future job opportunities?
2. What are the technological tools (i.e. software, analytical, computational) that are critical for undergrad & graduate student populations that can be consistently & coherently implemented across our curriculum?
3. What can we do to engage with engineering practice in the real world (policy, technology, industry, research etc)?
4. Does the current curriculum at the undergraduate and graduate levels provide the right balance between traditional and non-traditional (e.g., data science, entrepreneurship) or modern chemical engineering practices to meet the needs of industry or other stakeholders?
 - a. Is there a need for new classes or additional instructors?
5. How can we maximize the employment opportunities for our students?

Undergraduate Student Population

1. How do we continue to maintain our diverse student population given changes in the admission policy?

