

Faculty Meeting Minutes (Open session)

November 22, 2021 | 2:30 - 3:30 pm | Benson Hall, Room 109- ZOOM

Attendance:

Meeting start: 2:30 | Adjourn 3:30

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

Others Present

Debbie Carnes	Nicole Devine	Dave Drischell	Nicole Minkoff	
		Andrea Gleichweith		

AGENDA

- Approval of 10/25 minutes
- Announcements
- Postdoc teaching, faculty discussion and vote (Pfaendtner)
- PhD graduate faculty advisor, faculty vote (Pfaendtner)
- Presentation of ChemE capstone projects (Rutz)
- [time permitting] Review of faculty search interview format (Pfaendtner, DeForest, Nance)

Closed Session

- HR matter (Pfaendtner)
- PhD/MS graduate student placements (DeForest)

Approval of 10/25 minutes

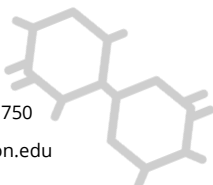
The meeting minutes from the 10/25/21 Faculty Meeting were sent out. Jim asked if there any corrections before they are approved. There were no corrections, the meeting minutes are approved.

Announcements

Congratulations to Cole for his nominations as the Director of Materials Engineering & Sciences Division (MESD) of AIChE.

Graduate student recruiting will take place on March 18 in-person unless there are any new COVID restrictions. UW is ok with the department hosting in-person activities. There will be an alternative virtual visit too.

Grad Awards Day is today at 4 pm in PAA 110. Hugh Hillhouse will be presented with the Moulton Award.



The Carothers lab has a new paper with 3rd year ChemE Ph.D. student Diego Alba Burbano as co-first author just published in Cell Systems

Congratulations to Mary Lidstrom on her retirement, this will be celebrated at a later date.

All new hires must be vaccinated unless they have a medical or religious exemption on their first day of employment, no exceptions. This includes postdocs and student employees. Debbie added that volunteers must also be vaccinated and there are no exemptions for them. But the distinction between a volunteer and a visitor is not clear. More information about this will be forthcoming. If you have any other questions, please ask. Do not wait until there is a deadline.

The Faculty Search Committee is looking for two student members. Grad students or postdocs who are not currently conducting an academic job search are eligible. Send nominations to Cole and Elizabeth. Jim advised newer faculty that this is a good opportunity for grad students who are in their 4th or 5th year, and for postdocs who might be going on the market next year.

Postdoc teaching, faculty discussion and vote (Pfaendtner)

Postdoc teaching was discussed a year ago at a Faculty Meeting. As part of the postdoc contract, they are eligible for teaching opportunities. A ballot will be forthcoming to appoint Nadia Intan and Tucker Burgin (postdocs in Pfaendtner Research Group) for 1 quarter. Funding will come from Pfaendtner RCR/discretionary funds. The vote has to be done on a quarterly basis. Each postdoc can only teach one quarter per year.

Jim wrote to the postdocs last summer about a teaching opportunity, there was a shortage across the department getting courses filled. No postdocs responded to the email.

Jim asked for questions or concerns, none were raised. A ballot will be sent out to appoint Nadia and Tucker.

PhD graduate faculty advisor, faculty vote (Pfaendtner)

Chun-Long Chen is a staff scientist at PNNL. He has brought in several grants and is part of Francois' center. He is part of the UW PNNL distinguished faculty fellow program and a dual appointee. He has funding in the department and is a full-time lab staff member. He needs to be added to the graduate faculty to be on a PhD committee. This is the first time that Jim knows of that a PNNL staff member has been added as a member of the graduate faculty. Jim asked for questions or concerns about this. None were raised. Chun-Long will get mentoring to understand what the students need.

A question was asked about where the student would be located. They will be in NanoES primarily where space has been allocated for Francois' center.

Francois commented that in the long run the department will need decide how to do this for affiliate faculty who do not have lab space in Benson. Also the NanoES lab space is a limited time commitment. Jim agreed and added that as long as Chun-Long has sponsored programs in the

department, lab space in Benson Hall can be found. Ideally the students would also be getting good experience at PNNL.

Dan Schwartz moved to appoint Chun-Long to the ChemE graduate faculty, Sam Jenekhe and Vince Holmberg seconded. This was unanimously approved, there were no abstentions.

Presentation of ChemE capstone projects (Rutz)

For Winter and Spring quarters there are seven new undergrad projects, one non-DIRECT masters project, and three DIRECT projects. Three of the projects are in collaboration with the MSE department.

Dave Beck added that the DIRECT projects all involve a data science component and they will stand in for the capstone projects that are assigned to masters students. Jim added that the PNNL project is being paid for by PNNL. They will get a lot of value out of having three masters students work on the project for six months under Dave's supervision, which is a message that the department is communicating to companies. This is a better investment than a summer intern.

Known Challenges

A food safe lab is needed for the Talking Rain project. Lilo said there is a food-safe lab in her office.

Ben said the projects without numbers next to them (on the agenda) will be targeting 5 ChemE students. There is limited interest from students for the PACCAR project. The dashboard tracks the projects and which students are applying. Jim said that we could offer this to the Chemistry masters students. The project can be staffed. Ben, Jim and Dave will talk about this separately. PhD students can participate in these projects, especially data science students. The goal is to have the projects lead to connections and sponsored research in the future.

Dan asked when the undergrads have the choice to participate, it is late to advise them to consider these. The dashboard went live about 2 weeks ago. There was a virtual pitch event Nov 18, most students probably started thinking about it then. In the future this event should probably be earlier. Dan said it would have been helpful to know in advance so he could let the students know.

The final date for student pitches has not yet been determined, possibly Dec 10.

Strategies

Industry sponsors will be giving the students technical direction and letting them know what their needs are. Ben would like to have a couple of lectures in the Winter quarter to teach necessary soft skills, such as:

- Group dynamics
- Project management (resource tracking, Gantt charts, etc)
- Fundamentals of Design of Experiments
- Professional communication
- Basics of management

If anyone has ideas to add or wants to participate, please let Ben know. Jim suggested he coordinate with Vince Holmberg who is teaching ChemE 485, which is all the seniors, including all the capstone students.

A question was asked about what portion of seniors go through the capstone projects. There is room for about 30 students, which is about half the seniors. Nicole Minkoff added that there are 4 students in the EIH program, so there are 34 total. There are a total of 65 seniors. Jim said the goal is to accommodate all students who want projects, they see this as a valuable addition to their senior year.

This is a good year to review the program with last year's students and the current students at the end of the year to see if the expectations are being met, and that this is a value-added effort. Dan encourages all of his advisees to participate. Jim said one reason a student may not want to do it is if they intend to go to grad school and they want more time in the lab to do research. The capstone is seven credit hours over 2 quarters.

Nicole Minkoff added that the capstones are a draw for students who are thinking about ChemE and are trying to understand what kind of projects they would be working on.

Jim thanked Ben for stepping up and taking on this project.

Review of faculty search interview format (Pfaendtner, DeForest, Nance)

Discussion of this topic is postponed until the next Faculty Meeting on 12/6/21. Jim asked people to think about interview formats. He set up a poll for all ChemE department chairs nationwide. The vast majority of the 20 or so who responded are doing in-person interviews with no remote options. No schools said they were doing remote only. A small percentage said optional for both.

The faculty need to think about what they want to do, the department can conduct interviews however it wants to. We shouldn't do in-person interviews if people aren't comfortable with it and don't want to participate. There is a spare office, so a faculty candidate can spend some time in there and take off their mask. Think about this for discussion at the next meeting.

There are 174 applicants for the open position. This is a typical amount. But it is a very competitive year, there are 60 tenure track job openings nationwide.

End of zoom meeting.

Closed session

HR Matter

Graduate Student Placements

A motion was made to accept placements presented and will go live on 11/23/21 - Cole DeForest. Seconded by James Carothers. Vote was unanimous, yes.