

Department of Chemical Engineering Faculty Meeting

Minutes

Monday, April 10, 2017

109 Benson Hall | 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Faculty Present:				
François Baneux (Chair)	Graham Allan	David Beck	John Berg	James Carothers
Cole DeForest	Vincent Holmberg	Brad Holt	Sam Jenekhe	Shaoyi Jiang
Andy Kim	Elizabeth Nance	Rene Overney	Jim Pfaendtner	Dan Schwartz
Eric Stuve	Qiuming Yu			
Others Present:				
Dave Drischell	Nicole Minkoff	Shoko Saji	Brian Gerwe (ACES)	
Faculty Absent:				
Stu Adler	Guozhong Cao	David Castner	Hugh Hillhouse	Mary Lidstrom
Jonathan Posner	Lilo Pozzo	Buddy Ratner	Venkat Subramanian	

1. Announcements and New Business

- 5/25 Washington Pulp and Paper Foundation banquet to honor Berg for “Wall of Fame” award. RSVP: <https://apps.sefs.uw.edu/wppfregister/>
- Pozzo to be recognized at 5/16 Latinx Faculty Recognition Event, celebrating the scholarly achievements of Latina and Latino faculty across tri-campuses
- Carothers & Willy Voje: Paper on multi-gRNA expression platform design in *Nature Communications*
- Chad Curtis (Nance): TL-1 Fellowship, Institute of Translational Health Sciences
- Membrion (\$5K Clean Energy Prize & \$1K “Judges also really liked” prize) and GreenFeed (\$1K “Judges also really liked” prize) at Environmental Innovation Challenge
- Nomination open for new representatives (email Shoko, will vote at 5/8 FM):
 - College Council (replacing Schwartz), must be associate or full rank
 - COE Council on Educational Policy (replacing Holt)
- Meeting w/ Weyerhaeuser research engineers: complete Shoko’s doodle if interested
- ChemE SEA underway (Nicole), winning art work to be unveiled at Awards Day: encourage your students to participate
- Event dates:
 - 4/21 F. & 4/22 S. Discovery Days & AIChE PNW conference
 - 4/28 F. Awards Day, 12pm at UW Club Yukon Pacific Room
 - 5/18 Th. Advisory Board Dinner (RSVP to Shoko by 5/5)
 - 5/22 M. Finlayson Lecture (Prof. Gary Leal, UCSB)
- Spring FM Dates: 4/10, 4/24, 5/8, 5/22, 6/5 (if needed)
- State of the Department presentation for graduate students on 4/17

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2. Update on Strategic Planning – Beck

Pozzo, Adler, and Beck have been asked to drive the strategic planning work – They seek faculty input.

- Most of the faculty are not and will not be Data Science methods developers
 - Many have research areas that can benefit from collaborations with Data Science methods faculty
 - Most of the faculty can be Data Science users, new way of thinking: Go big!
 - Need high-throughput equipment to drive data production, e.g. shared electrochem facility with automated testing, or other robotics
- The department needs to invest in a core of Data Science methods faculty, ~5
 - Too few could leave the DS core fragile to collapse, e.g. Dave & Jim get hit by a bus
 - Target the hires in this area with some specificity, e.g. imaging and image analysis is cross cutting in dept. (Need to keep developing this list)
 - Hiring builds external credibility for funding
- Education
 - Undergrad, “Data Science, Control & Optimization”
 - Integrate into 375*, 480*, 481*, 486, 490 as modules
 - Graduate
 - Expand with Data Science Option (non-Advanced) to teach grads to be Data Science users (not developers)
 - Institutionalize 546, 547 and expand (underway)
 - Inclusion of modules in core courses, numerical methods and optimization
 - Incredible recruiting tool and sets us above peers

Discussion of potential opportunities:

- Electrochemistry (used to be taught by Schwartz)
- Scaling up the UOPS instrumentation
- Transforming Undergraduate Education (TUE) by Beck & Pfaendtner
- Building data science scholarship and creating accessible/open resources: contribute to recruitment and visibility
- In addition to imaging, identify additional crosscutting targets to focus
- We’ll seek feedback from advisory board (5/18)

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3. Undergraduate Researcher Space in Summer – Minkoff

Email Nicole if you are interested in taking UG students during the summer in your lab. COE matches UG students (especially underrepresented) with labs during summer for gaining research experience. Some bring funding with them.

4. US News Ranking – Baneyx

- In 2017 we were #22, along with Penn State, Rice, and UCLA.
- In 2018 we are #27, along with Columbia, RPI, Rice, Texas A&M.
- The grad program ranking (essentially considered the department ranking) is based solely on peer department chairs' perceptions (lower ranking could be just one chair evaluating lower).
- The number of tied schools affect the ranking greatly.
- Notable "up": #25 Davis and Notre Dame. This is the first ranking for Davis after separation from Materials Science wing (which has many NAE members).
- Continue to publicize us. Consider inviting other chairs for seminars.
- How many faculty are giving talks at top schools? Extract from biosup and strategize.

5. Discussion of General Exam Best Practices – Pfaendtner (closed session)

Core Faculty: Refer to Jim's handout emailed on 4/7. Discussion to continue.

Meeting adjourned at 3:35pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Shoko Saji