

MINUTES

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING FACULTY ORGANIZATION (CEFO)

Tuesday, March 27, 2018, 12:30 PM

Lunch available at 12:00 PM

EPIC Building, Room G256

The following individuals signed the attendance sheet:

Robert E. Johnson, Ronald E. Smelser, Mike Hermann, Mariya Munir, Nabila (Nan) BouSaba, Valentina Cecchi, Jim Conrad, Abasifreke Ebong, Asis Nasipuri, Babak Parkhideh, Courtney Smith-Orr, Yamilka Baez-Rivera, Jeffrey Kimble, Arun Ravindran, Wei Fan, Linda Hargrove, Jimmie Miller, Wesley Williams, John Hildret, Jacelyn Rice, Tracy Beauregard, Nicole Braxton, Carlmalta Boran, Srinivas Pulugurtha, Yong Zhang, Bruce Gehrig, Sheng-Guo Wang, Rodward Hewlin, Gloria D. Elliott, M. Garry Hodgins, Timothy No, Mesbah Uddin, Tiffany Wilson, Bill Ardern, Simon Hsiang, Churlzu Lim, James E. Amburgey, Aidan F. Browne, Carlos Orozco, Deborah Sharer, Seth Martin, Scott Rockwell, Meg Harkins, Dan Latta, Ronald Sass.

(45 attendees)

1. Welcome – Dr. Arun Ravindran, CEFO President

Arun Ravindran called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were unanimously approved

3. Update & Introduction of Christine Biela, Director of Alumni Affairs and External Constituents – Dean Johnson

Welcome to Christine Biela. Event tonight and other events coming up to engage alumni. Connecting alumni and fundraising. Coming up in May 9th: alumni happy hour at Old Meck. Brewery. Please let Christine know of any alumni connection so that contact info can be updated. Faculty are encouraged to share ideas and suggestion. Idea about LinkedIn page – improving social media presence. Starting alumni council again. Leadership academy has also started alumni board. She will reach out to departments.

4. Graduate School Presentation and Questions – Dr. Tom Reynolds, Dean, Graduate School

Graduate school

Large meeting in Fall and one in Spring for outreach

Green folders were handed out with information about graduate school

Katherine Hall's presentation – 4 different policies approved from graduate council for Fall 2018 (described in folder):

- Increasing time limits by 1 year (eliminating revalidation process)
- Transfer credit for Masters students – increase to 20% of the program
- Courses taken outside will have same time limit as courses at UNCC
- Up to program to allow C-grade courses to be transferred
- Idea of accelerated PhD programs (advanced standing track)
- Reynolds asked faculty to ask questions, bring up concerns and/or suggestions. Several questions were posed:
 - In recent yrs, drop in number of international applicants (mostly master) – does GS have any plans to address this?
 - Domestic apps are up a little bit, 27% of graduate enrollment is international, ~1000 applications less this year, enrollment still ok
 - He brought up early entry program – enticing early entry students with small stipend. Students double counting courses
 - Increase in number of early entry students last year
 - Some companies (energy execs) need to hire domestic students “Can we pay domestic grad students more than international grad students?” are other places doing this? To increase #s of domestic students?
 - We’re paying out of state tuition for international students
 - UNCC has the largest student fees in the NC system, and some programs have tuition increments
 - 3rd largest international student population in NC
 - Funding options – nominations due April 3rd. when do we know outcome of student funding applications? In about 24hrs you would know for merit. Within ~2 days
- There is a task force looking into all aspects of graduate student funding. Coming out with a series of recommendations in ~ 2 weeks. Will be taken to all colleges for review and to seek recommendations
 - Amount of funding going to assistantship is going down generally
 - Not the case for our college: TA up 16% and RA up 14%
- (Dean Johnson) Changes relevant to COE – increase in TA money due to 20% more students! Money coming from college fund and from the tuition increment
- Graduate School: New money for assistantship coming only when new programs come
- One rec coming from taskforce: Funding from university should focus on TAs vs RAs (GASP).. consistency in what our grad students are being paid.

5. College and University Elections – CEFO Officers (Ravindran, Cecchi, Parkhideh, Orozco)
 Google spreadsheet was sent out. The goal is to finalize nominations next week

6. CEFO meetings switched to one per semester

- An additional CEFO meeting with topics targeted to junior tenure-track faculty

7. Closing – Dr. Arun Ravindran

Meeting adjourned at 1:30