

School of Engineering - Faculty Meeting Minutes

April 21st, 2023

Richard Weeks Hall of Engineering, room 102

Present: E K Akdogan, P Balaguru, H Baruh, A Bertuccio, O Bilgen, D Birnie, H Buettner, M Brown, K Cameron, Y Chen, A Cuitiño, E DeMauro, F Diez, A Gormley, X Gu, N Gucunski, Q Guo, W Guo, Y Guo, S Haghani, M Jafari, S Kilduff, L Klein, D Knight, N Langrana, H Lin, H Liu, A Maher, R Malhotra, N Mandayam, A Mann, H Najm, H Nassif, A Norris, T Oathes, D O'Carroll, D Ozolina, A Pelegri, M Pierce, D Pompili, R Reagan, D Reed, A Reihani, D Rider, A Rodriguez, C Roth, D Shreiber, R Sills, P Song, W Trappe, R Wang, S Wei, M Wu, J Yi, Y-K Yong, B Yuan, J Zahn.

Dean Alberto Cuitiño called the meeting to order at 2:09 pm.

No objections were raised concerning the minutes of the faculty meeting held on March 3rd, 2023, nor on the agenda of the current meeting.

- Dean's Report:
 - Dean Cuitiño began by noting that the Rutgers administration and unions continue with the negotiations toward suspending strike action and return to full time instruction. The Dean expressed hope that formal agreements would be reached soon. Uncertainty around final terms of agreement and level of state support means that the picture will become clearer over the next few months.
 - Dean Cuitiño emphasized that we are approaching the end of the school year and looking forward to concluding on a high note. All are invited to attend graduation celebrations, including SoE convocation at 3:30pm on Friday May 12th at Jersey Mike's Arena. Engineering departments will hold pre-convocation events on Busch campus (<https://soe.rutgers.edu/convocation>).
 - Two SoE faculty members have been promoted to Associate Professor with Tenure. Adam Gormley (BME) and Sheng Wei (ECE) were congratulated by the Dean and SoE faculty.

- Department Highlights:
 - David Shreiber (BME): Francois Berthiaume and colleagues have been awarded a 3-year grant from the New Jersey Commission on Brain Injury Research. Li Cai received a grant from the Rutgers HealthAdvance program. Valerie Tutwiler received the *New Innovator Award* at the North-East Biomedical Engineering Conference. Mary Ellen Presa was recognized through the *Excellence in Student Support* award from the School of Graduate Studies. Katrina Tun received a Chancellor-Provost's student award.

- Nenad Gucunski (CEE): CAIT and NJ Transit have been strengthening and formalizing their relationship, including signing an agreement to develop a North America regional training program. Student Holly Joseph (working with Jie Gong) received an institute fellowship from the NSF. Student Genevieve Ehasz (working with Nicole Fahrenfeld) received the Chancellor-Provost's research award.
 - Helen Buettner (CBE): Fernando Muzzio and Shishir Chundawat are leading multi-institutional research efforts in pharmaceutical manufacturing and continuous drug monitoring during production, respectively. Tewodros Asefa and colleagues were awarded a US patent for antimicrobial silica nanoparticles.
 - Yingying Chen (ECE): Athina Petropulu and colleagues were selected to receive the *Stephen O. Rice Prize* from the IEEE Communications Society. Mehdi Javanmard has been named as a Senior Member of the National Academy of Inventors. Umer Hassan received the *Advanced Biomanufacturing (ABioM) 2023 Junior Investigator Research Award*. Rutgers is executing an exclusive license with Steg.AI, a startup that was developed and founded by Kristin Dana and ECE graduate Eric Wengrowski.
 - Mohsen Jafari (ISE): A reception event for ISE alumni is scheduled for 6-9pm on Thursday April 27th at Batello Restaurant in Jersey City. Senior Design students attended a yoga session in Princeton and additional sessions will be hosted at Rutgers in the fall semester.
 - Assimina Pelegri (MAE): A 90th birthday celebration for former SoE Dean Ellis Dill will be held on April 26th. PhD student Parameshwaran Pasupathy won 3rd place in the student poster competition at the Michigan Institute for Computational Discovery and Engineering symposium at the University of Michigan. Rutgers will be hosting the 30th CIRP Life Cycle Engineering Conference from May 15-17, and the International Advanced Manufacturing Conference (NAMRC/MSEC/LEM&P) from June 12-16.
- Presentation: Wade Trappe
 - Wade Trappe gave an update on collaboration across academic units. Examples where Rutgers has been successful include the offshore wind collaborative. Interdisciplinary opportunities include across artificial intelligence, machine learning, and data science. SoE faculty were encouraged to work with other schools at Rutgers to create teams with the expertise and capacity to compete for larger grants, such as those offered by ARPA-H and NSF.
 - Presentation: Peng Song
 - Dean Song provided an update on undergraduate student enrollment within SoE. 745 students are currently committed to join as first year engineering students in fall 2023. Dean Song expressed appreciation for the SoE ambassadors and tour guides who have represented the school to visiting students and families.

- Announcements
 - Faculty are reminded of upcoming graduation events, including the School of Graduate Studies convocation (May 12th, 10:00am, Jersey Mike's Arena), SoE Department receptions (May 12th, see departments for locations and times), SoE Convocation (May 12th, 3:30pm, Jersey Mike's Arena), and University Commencement (May 14th, 10:00am, SHI Stadium).

- Old Business
 - None

- New Business
 - None

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark C. Pierce
Secretary, Engineering Faculty