

## **School of Engineering - Faculty Meeting Minutes**

**February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Richard Weeks Hall of Engineering, room 102**

*Present:* E Akdoğan, K Barillas, M Baykal-Gürsoy, H Benaroya, D Birnie, N Boustany, P Brown, H Buettner, D Burbano, G Callegari, K Cameron, F Celik, Y Chen, R Cohen, K Cook-Chennault, A Cuitiño, M Dutt, Z Gajic, X Gu, N Gucunski, A Guo, Q Guo, Y Guo, S Haghani, D Hilderbrandt, M Jafari, Y Jaluria, S Jha, S Kilduff, L Klein, D Knight, D Kruger, N Langrana, R Lehman, D Lambropoulos, Y Li, H Liu, M Liu, N Mandayam, A Mann, R Mieth, H Najm, T Özel, D Ozolina, H Pedersen, A Pelegri, A Petropulu, H Pham, M Pierce, R Ramachandran, R Reagan, D Reed, C Roth, A Safari, A Scacchioli, J Scicolone, D Shreiber, R Sills, P Song, V Tutwiler, G Weng, E Wicks, Y-K Yong, J Zahn.

Dean Alberto Cuitiño called the meeting to order at 2:42 pm.

The minutes from the previous faculty meeting on 11/17/23 were approved.

- Dean's Report:
  - Dean Cuitiño focused the meeting on the challenges, opportunities, and his vision for the School of Engineering over the next five years. He expressed optimism about our future, driven by external factors including industry's demand for engineers and innovative research, and internal factors including student and faculty talent and support from the university administration. He noted ongoing challenges including recovery from COVID-19 and budgetary shortfalls.
  - The school aims to align its strategic initiatives with the "pillars" of the New Brunswick Academic Master Plan. These SoE initiatives include:
    - Engineering innovation
    - Experiential learning for all
    - Access to engineering education
    - Creating facilities for the future

A comprehensive discussion of the school's alignment with the AMP will be held at a future faculty meeting.

- Dean Cuitiño outlined some broad targets within the SoE for the next five years. These include:
  - Growing faculty
  - Increasing PhD student fellowships
  - Improving the school's space and infrastructure
  - Increasing research awards and submissions

- Dean Cuitiño described the impact to-date of Rutgers using the Common App for undergraduate student applications in 2024. The admissions office has seen a large increase in application numbers to SoE (+66%). These applicants have comparable SAT scores and GPA to previous applicant pools. Around 7,000 applicants have been admitted but uncertainty remains over the number that will ultimately enroll at Rutgers in the fall 2024 semester. Regardless, SoE undergraduate enrollment is projected to exceed 4,000 in the near future.
- Dean Cuitiño reported a decline in numbers of graduate (master’s and PhD) students since 2018. The school aims to address this by increasing master’s enrollment by 80 students per year and PhD students by 10 per year, both over the next five years. The expected outcome will be an improvement in our graduate to undergraduate student ratio, while also increasing the master’s to PhD student ratio to a figure above two.
- National Engineer’s Week activities
  - Dean Cuitiño reminded faculty that National Engineer’s Week runs from 2/19 – 2/23. The school is hosting many events throughout the week, including:
    - Monday, 2/19: Spirit Day
    - Tuesday, 2/20: Scavenger Hunt, Interns Present
    - Wednesday, 2/21: RU Smarter Than a Professor?
    - Thursday, 2/22: Young Engineers Day, Cardboard Canoe Races
    - Friday, 2/23: Dean’s Distinguished Lecture, “*Robotics: Pioneering Space Exploration*”, featuring a panel discussion with:
      - Stephen J. Indyk ENG ’10, GSNB ’15, Director of Space Systems, Honeywell Robotics
      - Larry Toups, NASA (ret’d), Adjunct Professor, University of Houston
      - Melodie Yashar, VP Building Design and Performance, ICON).

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark C. Pierce

Secretary, Engineering Faculty