

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

**March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

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

*Present:* Y Androulakis, J P Antoine, P Balaguru, M Baykal-Gürsoy, D Birnie, A Bletsas, N Boustany, P Brown, H Buettner, J Cadena, K Cameron, Y Chen, S Chundawat, K Cook-Chennault, N Corrente, A Cuitiño, J Freeman, Z Gajic, H C Gea, X Gu, N Gucunski, Y Guo, U Hassan, A Hoscilowicz, M Jafari, D Knight, Y Li, H Lin, H Liu, M Liu, A Mann, R Mieth, M Meregalli-Ferrer, C Na, S Niu, E Nikolopoulos, T Oathes, D O'Carroll, A Pelegri, A Petropulu, M Pierce, D Pompili, R Ramachandran, R Reagan, A Reihani, I Rosen, C Roth, A Sarwate, A Scacchioli, J Scafidi, D Shreiber, R Sills, P Song, M Striki, W Trappe, G Tsilomelekis, C White, E Wicks, K Wine, Y-K Yong, J Zahn.

Dean Alberto Cuitiño called the meeting to order at 2:41 pm.

The minutes from the previous faculty meeting on 2/9/24 were approved.

- Presentation:
  - Jason Geary (Dean of the Mason Gross School of the Arts and Senior Vice Provost for Academic Initiatives) and Carolyn Moehling (Senior Vice Provost and Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Education) presented an update on the Rutgers-New Brunswick Academic Master Plan (AMP) (<https://newbrunswick.rutgers.edu/academic-master-plan>).
  - Senior Vice Provost Geary and Senior Vice Provost Moehling described the four pillars of the Academic Master Plan, the current status of initiatives within these areas, and future goals toward full implementation of the plan:
    - I: Scholarly leadership
    - II: Innovative research
    - III: Student success
    - IV: Community engagement
  - During open discussion with the engineering faculty, questions were raised on several topics, including:
    - *How to communicate the AMP and its pillars to the internal Rutgers community and to the wider, external community?*
    - *How to accommodate greater numbers of undergraduate students in research activities?*
    - *How Rutgers aims to create and update infrastructure to support the AMP?*

- *How, given current budgetary constraints, will initiatives within the AMP be supported?*
  - *How will progress toward meeting the AMP goals be defined and measured?*
- Committee Updates:
    - Hae Chang Gea (master's degree programs): The school is continuing to review and revise its master's degree offerings. Biomedical Engineering and Chemical & Biochemical Engineering are working towards establishing combined bachelor's / master's degree programs with TCNJ. International partners are also engaged in discussions on establishing "3+2" programs with Rutgers SoE.
    - Peng Song (undergraduate enrollment): The school has seen application numbers rise by around 60% for fall 2024. The admissions process is ongoing, with Friday tour groups showing high turnout among prospective students.
    - Wade Trappe (cross disciplinary initiatives): Several cross disciplinary initiatives are underway and expanding involving SoE faculty and programs. Examples include climate, energy, agriculture, life sciences, behavioral health, and machine learning / artificial intelligence.
    - Ilene Rosen (student health and wellness): The school continues to develop and offer events to enhance student health and wellness. With support from Mohsen Jafari and student organizations, yoga sessions and teamwork initiatives are being planned.
    - Dunbar Birnie (entrepreneurship): Rutgers is offering another cohort of the regional I-Corps training program through our NSF Hub. This will be a 4-session program offered in May/June where faculty and students can explore how to commercialize an innovation from your lab. This includes a diversity innovation fellowship program where underrepresented students can join with an I-Corps team during the cohort and receive a stipend and innovation experience (<https://ored.njaes.rutgers.edu/strategic-programs/i-corps/>).

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark C. Pierce

Secretary, Engineering Faculty