



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

**February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Richard Weeks Hall of Engineering, room 105**

*Present:* E K Akdogan, Y Androulakis, J P Antoine, P Bagchi, H Benaroya, N Boustany, M Brown, H Buettner, J Cadena, K Cameron, F Celik, Y Chen, K Cook-Chennault, Y Cohen, N Corrente, A Cuitiño, F J Diez, A A Ezzat, X Gu, N Gucunski, A Guo, W Guo, Y Guo, S Haghani, M Jafari, S Kilduff, B Kim, L Klein, D Knight, D Lambropoulos, N Langrana, Y Li, H Lin, G Markand, C Miller, A Mont, E Nikolopoulos, S Niu, A Norris, T Oathes, D O'Carroll, D Ozolina, A Pelegri, A Petropulu, M Pierce, D Reed, D Rider, I Rosen, T Rossi, A Ruiz, J Shan, J Singer, M Sorensen, M Striki, W Trappe, S Wei, G Weng, E Wicks, G Yang, J Zahn, I Zipkin.

Dean Alberto Cuitiño called the meeting to order at 2:41 pm. The minutes from the previous faculty meeting on 11/8/24 were approved.

- New Faculty:
  - MAE Chair Mina Pelegri introduced Joseph (Yossi) Cohen, joining the department as an Assistant Professor.
- Dean's Report:
  - Today's meeting will comprise a review of the school's activity in FY24 and expectations for FY25. University leadership including the president, chancellor, deans, and chairs are communicating about challenges presented by recent executive orders that may impact the university's mission. The university is monitoring new developments and is prepared to act accordingly. Importantly, the university's values are unchanged and we remain focused on our core mission; to educate and train future engineers, to conduct state-of-the-art research, and to serve local, state, and regional stakeholders.
- Ilene Rosen (Student Services):
  - National Engineers week is from February 16-22 and will feature events including Spirit Day, Interns Present, RU Smarter than a Professor, Young Engineers Day, Cardboard Canoe Races, and the Dean's distinguished lecture. Faculty are encouraged to participate and engage with students and visitors.
  - The school continues to support many pre-college programs including Engineers of the Future (EOF/EOP programs), Engineering Summer Academy, Governor's



School in Engineering and Technology, Rutgers Honors Engineering Experience, RU CHANGE, and TARGET. More details can be found at:

[www.soe.rutgers.edu/academics/pre-college-engineering-programs](http://www.soe.rutgers.edu/academics/pre-college-engineering-programs)

- 2024 saw an increase in reported academic integrity concerns, with 70 total cases across spring, summer, and fall semesters. More academic integrity facilitators are needed to handle cases reported in SoE.
  - 38 student organizations are currently recognized by the Engineering Governing Council (EGC). Rutgers University Student Assembly (RUSA) is the New Brunswick wide student governing body. Recent changes to allocation of funding support to student organizations are being examined.
- Maria Sorensen (Development Office):
    - In 2024, the school received \$11.4m in gifts and pledges from individuals, foundations, corporations.
    - In 2025, the development office continues to build partnerships with other schools / offices on fundraising initiatives. Major events include the Medal of Excellence dinner, homecoming, and a Rutgers Day VIP event. The office has established a full development team (Maria Sorensen, Ashley Rappaport, Diane Borowsky, Gabrielle Markand), with connections to each engineering department.
    - The office has a goal of raising \$10m in predictable annual revenue and will partner with department chairs and faculty, organize more regional events, and increase community support.
- Diane Reed (Communications):
    - The school's Annual Impact Report has been assembled and is available online (<https://soe.rutgers.edu/impact23-24>). In 2024, several new webpage designs and marketing materials were developed and rolled out.
    - In 2025, the communications team will be refreshing SoE brand materials, publishing a new edition of the RU Engineering magazine, refreshing online video content, strengthening our targeted recruitment efforts, and continuing to report news out from the school of engineering.
- Hao Lin (International Programs):
    - The school of engineering is continuing to combine several existing initiatives into a coordinated program. These include PhD programs (e.g. dual degrees with partner schools), Masters programs (e.g. 3+1+1 curricula), certificate programs,

pathway programs, and gateway programs (e.g. summer schools with Rutgers Global).

- Wade Trappe (Research Development):
  - Data on FY25 grant proposals indicate increased numbers of submissions and increased budget requests. To-date, the number of grants awarded in FY25 is lower than in FY24 but the awarded budget amounts are higher.
  - Advice for managing research projects is to stay connected with funding programs and program officials, stay on track with budget spending, and continue to produce valuable research output.
- Susan Kilduff & David Rider (Finance):
  - In FY24, total operating revenues for the school were \$3m lower than budgeted. Grants and contracts were up while student tuition and fees were down by \$1.8m. F&A recoveries were also down by \$1.1m.
  - \$5m were saved in fringe benefits with an additional \$5.1m saved in expenditures, resulting in an overall surplus of \$2.1m.

Additional presentations from the Dean's office will be included in the next SoE faculty meeting scheduled for Friday, April 11th, 2025.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm.

Mark C. Pierce

Secretary, Engineering Faculty