



Attendance: Doyle Knight, Joseph Konczynski, Lydia Kuzmyk, Demetrios Lambropoulos, Noshir Langrana, Yalin Li, Hao Lin, Meiyin Liu, Laleh Lyman, Narayan Mandayam, Adrian Mann, Monica Mazurek, Aaron Mazzeo, Kristina Medina, George Moutsanidis, Husam Najm, Deirdre O'Carroll, Tyler Oathes, Tugrul Ozel, Dace Ozolina, Assimina Pelegri, Robert Perez, Mark Pierce, Dario Pompili, Randy Reagan, Diane Reed, David Rider, Jett Sable, Ryan Sills, Peng Song, Maria Sorensen, Suela Thomas, Wade Trappe, Nikolaos Vlassis, Sheng Wei, George Weng, Candiece White, Ellin Wicks, Iris Zipkin, Ioannis Androulakis, Jean Patrick Antoine, Ahmed Aziz Ezzat, Waheed Bajwa, Katie Barillas, Melike Baykal-Gursoy, Haym Benaroya, Francois Berthiaume, Onur Bilgen, Philip Brown, Daniel Brubano, Helen Buettner, Priscilla Calderon, Kendra Cameron, Fuat Celik, Yingying Chen, Yossi Cohen, Kimberly Cook-Chennault, Nicholas Corrente, Alberto Cuitino, Ed DeMauro, Vassiliki Demetracopoulou, Aimee Eng, Ahmed Aziz Ezzat, Nicole Fahrenfeld, Nenad Gucunski, Ashley Guo, Qizhong (George) Guo, Yuebin Guo, Qizhong Guo, Sasan Haghani, Diane Hilderbrandt, Jesse Hubler, Mohsen Jafari, Yogesh Jaluria, Natacha James, Myong Jeong, Shantenu Jha, Sue Kilduff, Lisa Klein

Start time: 2:32pm

Dean Cuitino:

- Previous meeting minutes approved
- “20 in 2” hiring initiative approved due to the strong position of the school, an important opportunity to hire a significant cohort of faculty
 - School is doing great with respect to several metrics: student retention, quality and impact of publications (number of citations), and research funding
 - Hopefully, this hiring initiative allows us to show that we can continue excelling
 - Rutgers is a big public institution in a unique metropolitan area on the East Coast
 - contrast with UCLA (consistently top 10 in engineering), a little bigger in graduate students (~2500) and faculty (~220)
- Meeting agenda
 - School’s connection to AI – already teaching several AI courses, but what is the overall strategy?
 - International activities
 - New effort with PRIME

New staff/faculty introductions:

- Diane Reed introduces Aimee Eng as Assistant Director, Communications and Marketing
- Kimberly Cook-Chennault introduces Jeet Sable as Program Director for Community Engagement
- David Rider introduces Christina Medina as Senior Financial Analyst
- Iris Zipkin introduces Natasha James as Senior Program Coordinator and Coordinator of Student Records in the Office of Academic Services

Sue Kilduff:

- “Step Up 25 Plan”
 - Draft document and business card/brochure drafted for the plan

Diane Reed:

- Reviewed Step Up Plan business card/brochure
 - Designed to make it easy to showcase Rutgers research and education
- Digital brochure with four research focus areas listed plus storytelling for each, also some hard copies printed

Wade Trappe:

- Step-Up Strategic Vision
 - The brochure document is “Phase 0” of the plan
 - Strategic Vision document is “Phase 1”
 - Four strategic focus areas: Defense and National Security, Infrastructure for the Future, Energy for the Future, Healthcare and Medical Manufacturing
 - Defense
 - Overall national priority
 - Infrastructure
 - Not just buildings and roads, but also power distribution, etc.
 - Energy
 - Small modular reactors, traditional sources, less wind which is losing interest
 - Medical
 - Lots of pharma/healthcare in the area to leverage
 - Future Aspirations
 - Big Bet Research Areas
 - Need large initiatives like SRCs and Engines to move up
 - Industry Partnerships
 - Research Infrastructure
 - How to convince administration to support updated infrastructure?
 - Faculty Recruitment
 - Need the faculty of the future to become the school of the future
 - Also considering innovation in our education and through local impact in the state of NJ
- Questions from the faculty:
 - What is the process for faculty to link to this initiative?
 - One example: work together to organize teams for center proposals
 - Will there be any seed funding for proposal development in strategic focus areas?

- Right now, only setting/identifying the strategic vision, next step is implementation, seed funding may be a mechanism
- Some seed funding opportunities already exist from RCI and the RAD Collaboratory

Kimberly Cook-Chennault:

- SOE Initiatives, trying to align with University's priorities
 - #1: Strategic Program for Advancing AI-Driven Research and Knowledge (SPARK)
 - Develop courses/case studies to equip Rutgers students with practical AI competence tailored toward real-world applications
 - Micro-credentials
 - Four-course program is proposed
 - 1 – AI literacy for engineering
 - 2 – Machine learning for engineering practice
 - 3 – Discipline-specific AI engineering applications (could include courses already offered by majors)
 - 4 – AI Engineering Project
 - Certificate/micro-credential awarded at the end
 - Hoping to launch the course pilot in Spring/Summer 2026, pending approval of courses
 - #2: Multidisciplinary Capstone Senior Design Expo
 - Why do it? It's a good opportunity for networking/community building, alumni engagement, external visibility, student recruitment, industry collaboration, philanthropic opportunities
 - Tie the expo to the themes from the Step-Up strategic vision
 - Date: Wednesday April 22nd, 2026
 - All departments are involved in expo activities
 - #3: SOE Community Engagement Recognition
 - Creating a micro-credentialing program
 - Working with community partners to identify engineering needs
 - Students participate in applied engineering projects for a community engagement activity

Hao Lin:

- International activities and graduate program update
 - Recently there has been university-wide effort to engage in Indian partnerships
 - March visit to India (Hao and Rutgers Global staff), visiting 10 Indian universities

- Priorities identified: IIT Madras, Vellore Institute of Technology, KMW, Plaksha
 - MoU's signed with all four in November, help from Ashutosh Goel
- Vellore is primary focus of next stage of development
 - Recruitment in master's programs, transfer programs, research collaborations
- Also visited UAE in November
 - Visited Zayed University, Khalifa University, American University of Sharjah, Ajman University
 - Alumni event on 11/16 with ~80 alumni in attendance
 - Working to grow connections to these schools
- Graduate student applications have continuously increased since 2022
- 360 total PhD students, PhD/TT = 2.4 (TT = tenure track faculty), Total MS/ME = 525 compared to 1500-3000 total grad in other Big10, Total online (MAE, ISE) = 64

Ioannis Androulakis:

- Update to PRIME (Professional and Interdisciplinary Master of Engineering)
 - Fully approved
 - “Umbrella concentrations” that capitalize on “stackable” course modules
 - 10 courses (6 SOE + 4 electives)
 - Initial concentrations as a blueprint:
 - Infrastructure and Transportation Engineering and Management
 - Build on CAIT, link to Bloustein and Business
 - Healthcare Engineering
 - Link to RWJMS

Laleh Safari- Lyman (CAIT administrator):

- SOE staff recognition 2025, awards presented at a ceremony and dinner
 - 94 attendees out of ~150 staff
 - 87 nominations received
 - Announced the winners of the awards
 - Positive feedback received for the event

Dean Cuitiño:

- No old business
- Winter Reception for the school on 12/12 at 4 pm on the second floor of Weeks Hall.

- New business from Tugrul Ozel: makes a motion to amend the bylaws to establish a panel review process for Dean's performance at least once every 5 years, or at the discretion of the Chancellor
 - Dean Cuitiño's response: Need to follow the process for amending the bylaws through appropriate committees.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ryan Sills
Secretary, Engineering Faculty