



Meeting minutes – SoE 4/17/26 faculty meeting

Attendance:

Enver Koray Akdogan, Yannis Androulakis, Jean Patrick Antoine, Waheed Bajwa, Perumalsamy Balaguru, Melike Baykal-Gursoy, Haym Benaroya, Onur Bilgen, Philip Brown Michael Brown, Helen Buettner, Daniel Burbano, Jesenia Cadena, Kendra Cameron, Yingying Chen, David Coit, Kimberly Cook-Chennault, Nicholas Corrente, Edward DeMauro Nicole Fahrenfeld, Zoran Gajic, Nenad Gucunski, Ashley Guo, Yuebin Guo, Evelyn Hanna, Jesse Hubler, Mohsen Jafari, Susan Kilduff, Lisa Klein, Joseph Konczynski, Demetrios Lambropoulos, Noshir Langrana, Narayan Mandayam, Aaron Mazzeo, Ashley Mont Georgios Moutsanidis, Husam Najm, Tyler Oathes, Dace Ozolina, Mark Pierce, Diane Reed David Rider, Arron Rodriguez, Charlie Roth, Ahmad Safari, Patricia Santos, Anand Sarwate Jonathan Singer, Peng Song, Wade Trappe, Sheng Wei, Elin Wicks, Jeff Zahn, Iris Zipkin

Start time: 2:43 pm

Dean Cuitiño:

- Previous meeting minutes approved
- Dean's office report will talk about research, undergraduate education, senior design expo

Wade Trappe

- Research Proposal and Award Activity Report
 - Report on the Fiscal Year to date – July 1 to April 14
 - Activity: FY 26: 281 proposals at \$87.9M vs FY 25: 276 proposals at \$101.9M total
 - Awards: FY 26: 257 Awards worth \$53.6M vs. FY 25: 329 Awards worth 68.8m
 - Behind in awards received – possibly due to less availability and backlog from federal government
 - Awards by department (without the three largest centers)
 - Goal is to reach a steady level based on faculty per department
 - Some key highlights
 - BME leading in volume
 - CBE – consistent winner



- CEE – strong recovery
- ECE – partial rebound
- Insights from the large centers
 - Winlab – growth – surge in submission number and dollar value
 - CSOPS – ERC to big grants – begun to submit large grants
 - CAIT – volume leader – consistent large amount but little dip this year due to DOT refresh
- Slight decrease in overall volume of submissions
 - Genesis AI – 80 focus areas – Rutgers will submit proposals in 30 of them (April 28th deadline)
 - 20 out of 30 from Rutgers led by SOE faculty
- Shorter turnaround times on grants seem to be more normal at the federal level
- Discussion about those that are submitted with other schools and how we account for that

Kimberly Cook Chennault and Kendra Cameron

- Capstone senior design showcase
 - Wednesday 4/22 – ideal time to visit from 10:00 to 2:00
 - Everyone invited to come and support students
 - There is a need for judges
 - Diane Reed's team is doing a social media blitz

Evelyn Hanna

- Sent a campus wide survey about accommodations – please fill out
- Be aware of accommodations and resources available
- Academic integrity – website has large number of resources

Peng Song

- Fall 2026 registration has started – official start is 4/20
- Projections for fall enrollment
 - Currently on par with last year (1140 in the first year and 239 transfers)
 - 1/3 of transfers are internal and 2/3 external
 - From 1140 last year first years, 1120 were retained (98.25% retention rate)
 - Exceeds university wide 5-year goal for retention
 - Highest average entry test scores on campus
 - 1425 on SAT – 31 points above RU NB average
 - Open house was a large success



Arron Rodriguez

- Admitted students' days are highly impactful
- Estimated that open house had 1500 people attend

Dean Cuitiño

- Admitted student SAT is 1460 – students who applied are 1425
- Goal of the expo is to have the best student event on campus
 - President and Chancellor are visiting the event and getting a VIP tour
 - Important to set the position within the state with our students as problem solvers

Proposal to change bylaws

- Dean Cuitiño
 - Very important and different standards for changing bylaws
 - Last time we changed the bylaws was led by Hao
- Hao Lin
 - Last time the bylaws were changed was almost 10 years ago
 - Timeline
 - 9/19/2017 – formation of committee on bylaws (1 rep from each department)
 - Underwent several iterations and changes to proposed language
 - First presented to full SOE without voting but was then moved to RPC
 - 11/2/2018 – proposal to amend presented to SOE and passed
 - Want to avoid duplicity
 - *We should revise bylaws as a necessity*
- Dean Cuitiño
 - Important to give proper timeline given for people to consider this – typically this has been about two weeks – has the responsibility to protect the process – invite the chair RPC to explain why the two weeks is not necessary
- Waheed Bajwa
 - RPC consists of one member from each department as appointed by each department
 - RPC role is not to endorse but to process proposals – must take it up for two months after which we must vote on it
 - Proposal came to RPC in October
 - Asked each representative to discuss within their department
 - Feedback only heard from 1 faculty member



- RPC voted down original amendment because it was too expansive
- Following downvote – a shortened proposal came in and was voted on in February and approved and sent to secretary
- Committee fulfilled its two weeks
- Bylaws have a little ambiguity as to what sent to secretary for distribution two weeks before means
- RPC voted to say that it should be brought up and is not an endorsement either
 - RPC only interprets the bylaws but does not make them
- Discussion back and forth amongst faculty about the process for bringing up amendments
 - Any faculty can bring up a proposal and RPC must vote on it in 2 months per the by-laws
- Dean Cuitiño
 - Dean's interpretation of the procedure (with no consideration of the content) regarding the timeline: Faculty must have two weeks to regardless of the two-month timeline – so we will not proceed.

Kendra Cameron

- Upcoming events
 - Rutgers day coming soon -BBQ is coming back
 - Department graduation is May 14th from 12 to 5:00 or so
 - May 15 is convocation

End time: 4:07 pm