School of Engineering - Faculty Meeting Minutes

December 3rd, 2021

Online Meeting (Webex)


Dean Thomas N. Farris called the meeting to order at 3:04pm.

No objections were raised concerning the minutes of the faculty meeting held on October 1st, 2021, nor on the agenda of the current meeting.

- Dean’s Report:
  - Dean Farris provided an overview of the New Brunswick Academic Master Plan (NB-AMP). Development of the NB-AMP is being led by Chancellor-Provost Conway’s office and “...will serve as the roadmap for the institution’s future, clarifying strategies to accomplish the university’s academic mission”. Full details can be found at https://newbrunswick.rutgers.edu/chancellor-provost/academic-master-plan.
  - Several members of the SoE faculty are serving on the NB-AMP steering committee and sub-committees:
    - Goal 1 (Vision, academic priorities, communication): Wade Trappe
    - Goal 2 (Program growth, academic coherence, signature programs): Alberto Cuitiño, David Shreiber
    - Goal 3A (Innovative research): Dean Farris (co-chair), Aaron Mazzeo, Anand Sarwate
    - Goal 3B (Inclusive pedagogy & student experience): Henrik Pedersen (co-chair), Kimberly Cook-Chennault
    - Goal 3C (Public service / community engagement): No SoE representative
    - Dean Farris expressed his thanks to the SoE faculty serving on NB-AMP committees.
  - Development of the NB-AMP was initiated by Chancellor-Provost Conway’s office in summer 2021 (step 1). Data collection and stakeholder engagement (step 2) concluded in November 2021. Establishing academic priorities and strategies is
currently underway (step 3). Operationalizing the plan (step 4) is scheduled to commence in spring 2022.

- Wade Trappe, Alberto Cuitiño, Aaron Mazzeo, Anand Sarwate, and Henrik Pedersen outlined their respective roles and goals for each committee.

- Dean Farris invited faculty to offer input and engage in an open discussion of the NB-AMP. Several comments were made:
  - Challenges exist in ensuring that faculty efforts in interdisciplinary research are adequately recognized and rewarded (e.g. by P&T committees).
  - There is a need to understand and appreciate the scholarly products prioritized by different academic fields (e.g. journal publications vs. conference proceedings vs. books).
  - Interdisciplinary research within STEM fields can benefit from partnerships with the social sciences to maximize impact (e.g. in renewable and equitable energy).
  - Interdisciplinary research is not a new concept and has been emphasized before. What aspect(s) of the NB-AMP will lead to new successes in this area?

- Dunbar Birnie informed faculty about the Department of Energy’s EnergyTech University prize. The competition is well suited to faculty inventors who might engage some students to explore the path to commercialization for their invention and enter this pitch contest. Details can be found at https://www.energy.gov/technologytransitions/energytech-university-prize. Dunbar kindly offered to assist faculty or students interested in building teams or with answering questions about the competition. He can be contacted at dunbar.birnie@rutgers.edu.

- Nominations for the 2022 Medal of Excellence are due by January 22nd, 2022. Full details can be found at https://soe.rutgers.edu/MOE-award. Nominations are also open for the 2021 SoE Faculty of the Year and Outstanding Engineering Faculty awards. See https://soe.rutgers.edu/story/call-nominations-engineering-faculty-awards for details.

- The SoE holiday party will be held at 4pm on December 16th in Richard Weeks Hall. Kendra will circulate an invitation with the option to RSVP. All are welcome.

• Introduction of new faculty and staff
  - Narayan Mandayam (ECE) introduced Assistant Professor Yao Liu.
  - Peng Song (SoE) introduced Assistant Dean for Recruitment and Educational Outreach Arron Rodriguez.

• Old Business
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- None

- New Business
  - None

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

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Mark C. Pierce
Secretary, Engineering Faculty