School of Engineering - Faculty Meeting Minutes
February 11th, 2022
Online Meeting (Webex)


Dean Thomas N. Farris called the meeting to order at 3:05pm.

No objections were raised concerning the minutes of the faculty meeting held on December 3rd, 2021, nor on the agenda of the current meeting.

- Dean’s Report:
  - Dean Farris welcomed the faculty back to campus for the spring 2022 semester.
  - Yingying Chen (ECE) was recently named a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors, in the class of 2021.
  - The Rutgers Board of Governors has appointed Shriram Ramanathan as the first holder of the Rodkin-Weintraub Chair in Engineering. Prof. Ramanathan conducts research in metastable semiconductors and device physics for artificial intelligence, robotics, brain-machine interfaces, and adaptive electromagnetic materials and devices. He will join Rutgers from Purdue University prior to the fall 2022 semester.
  - Facilities: Planning continues for phase 2 of the SoE precinct plan, specifically for renovation and expansion of the fiber optics building. The Bruce and Phyllis Nicholas Engineering Student Projects Studio is currently under construction and scheduled for completion in summer 2022. The roof of the engineering building’s D-wing is due to undergo major repairs.
  - Development: The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey has committed to provide scholarship support to female students from the cities of Elizabeth and Newark. This gift will also provide a pathway to internships for students from the school of engineering.
  - National Engineers Week runs from February 20th – 26th, 2022. The school is organizing events each day including Spirit Day, Interns Present, Young Engineers Day, and the traditional Cardboard Canoe races. On February 25th, the Dean’s Distinguished Lecture features a panel discussion with Alumni J. R. Robinson (ENG’95), James Hughes (ENG’65), and Connie Hughes (GSNB’76).
This event will take place at 3:00 – 4:00 pm in Richard Weeks Hall of Engineering, room 102. See https://soe.rutgers.edu/eweek2022 for full details.

• Presentation / report:
  – Kimberly Cook-Chennault presented a review of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusive Excellence (DEI) committee’s accomplishments in 2020-21 and milestones for 2022.
  – The committee has developed a multi-year plan to “…develop activities and infrastructure that allow faculty, staff, and students to realize their full potential through an environment that is diverse, accessible, equitable, and inclusive”.
  – Prof. Cook-Chennault described major accomplishments in 2021. These included: establishing and training the DEI committee, hosting DEI seminars, conducting a climate survey among SoE faculty, staff, and students, and participation in graduate student recruiting events.
  – Data were presented on undergraduate and graduate student demographics and distribution of degrees awarded across student groups, for Rutgers SoE and selected institutions.
  – The committee is reviewing faculty applicant’s statements on DEI and will provide feedback to the respective departments. Data were also reported on completion rates for STRIDE training among search committee members.
  – The SoE website features a celebration of black scientists and engineers as part of black history month (https://soe.rutgers.edu/DEI-school-engineering-celebrates).

• Introduction of new faculty and staff
  – Dean Farris introduced Maria Sorensen, newly appointed as Senior Director of Development for the School of Engineering.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark C. Pierce
Secretary, Engineering Faculty