School of Engineering - Faculty Meeting Minutes

September 11th, 2020

Online Meeting (Webex)


Dean Thomas N. Farris called the meeting to order at 3:02pm.

No objections were raised concerning the minutes of the Faculty Meeting held on March 6th, 2020, nor on the agenda of the current meeting.

- Dean’s Report:
  - Dean Farris extended a warm welcome to attendees for the first online faculty meeting in the school’s history. Dean Farris expressed his appreciation to the faculty for their efforts in pivoting to remote instruction and maintaining research productivity, while facing significant challenges due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Susan Albin and Joseph Freeman were recognized as recipients of the School of Engineering’s Faculty of the Year and Outstanding Engineering Faculty awards, respectively, for 2020. Dean Farris also noted several faculty promotions and reappointments.
  - Lisa Klein was introduced as the new chair of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering, succeeding Richard Lehman who steps down after 10-years of service in the position.
  - Dean Farris reminded the faculty that while graduate students are permitted to return to campus for research activities, they must complete all university, school, and department level training requirements prior to doing so. A process through which undergraduate students may gain approval to return for research has been developed by ORED (https://go.rutgers.edu/R2RUndergrads). However, the school of engineering is using the month of September to assess whether undergraduate students can safely return to SoE labs later in the academic year.
Dean Farris welcomed Rutgers’ new President, Jonathan Holloway, who began his tenure on July 1st, 2020. Prabhas Moghe, Distinguished Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Chemical and Biochemical Engineering, current Provost for Rutgers University – New Brunswick, was recently appointed Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs. Kimberly Cook-Chennault was appointed as chair of the SoE Diversity Committee.

Dean Farris advised that more information will be forthcoming shortly on the university’s major fundraising campaign. The school of engineering is focusing on initiatives that will lead to expanding student access to degree programs at Rutgers. The school will also revisit the SoE precinct plan and options for expansion of the fiber optics building (phase 2).

The university introduced a new academic integrity policy, effective June 2nd, 2020 (http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/). Significant changes include a new classification of violations as level 1/2/3, and a reduction in the standard of proof in academic integrity cases. Ilene Rosen is working with a new group of SoE faculty who will serve as academic integrity facilitators (AIFs) to review cases in the school.

The school of engineering will not be holding in-person events for the foreseeable future. The 2020 Medal of Excellence dinner has been cancelled and will be held again in Fall 2021. A virtual alumni event will be held on November 19th with further details to follow. The engineering virtual seminar series (https://soe.rutgers.edu/alumni-events) will feature Nicole Fahrenfeld (Civil and Environmental Engineering) on September 24th, 2020.

• New Appointments
  – Department chair Nenad Gucunski introduced Assistant Professor Meiyin Liu as a new faculty member in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering.
  – Department chair David Shreiber introduced Assistant Professor Valerie Tutwiler as a new faculty member in the Department of Biomedical Engineering.
  – Vice Dean of Administration and Planning, Susan Kilduff, introduced two new members of the SoE business office:
    o Mazen Shehat, Senior Business Manager
    o Monika Incze, Grant Facilitator

• Old Business
  – None

• New Business
  – None
With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Mark C. Pierce
Secretary, Engineering Faculty