

Spring Undergraduate Open Forum Minutes

Overview

The March 30, 2022 Spring Undergraduate Open Forum addressed the associated BMES Qualtrics survey which received a total of 221 responses from members of the Weldon School undergraduate community. Approximately 15 people attended the forum, both virtually and in-person. We were lucky enough to have Dr. David Umulis open up the discussion, speaking on the strides made this past year to bring our BME community closer together.

The Spring Undergraduate Open Forum was hosted with the goal of discussion and conversation between faculty and undergraduate students. The Open Forum allowed participants to discuss sophomore and junior-specific course feedback, use of BME resources (resource room, computer lab, and BME-specific programming), and general comments and concerns within our community. An outline of the conversation was documented at the time and the notes can be seen below.

- *BMES Team*

Minutes

BME 207 - Dr. Tong

- Encourages students to come to office hours/after class
- First semester that sophomores are taking it, big jump due to lack of PHYS 241/272 knowledge
- At first that would be manageable, but understands students need for more knowledge
- Grade will be justified by curve
- Friday afternoon is the best time to meet with Dr. Tong
- First part of the course is tough, second part is easier
- Would be more helpful to treat it as a fundamental course
- Asem: removed two labs from BME 305, adjusted schedule to relieve students from doing it during midterm exam
 - Including rubrics was helpful
- Bulk of students' time was taken trying to interpret rubrics because they felt the rubrics were too vague
- Lack of staffing is preventing massive changes in courses

BME 206 - Dr. Linnes

- Students found less issues with this lab compared to BME 207
- More concerned with circuits lab
- Milestones have sample documents
- Lab practical: worked with Dr. Linnes and TAs to practice
 - Let Dr. Linnes if you would like to practice skills, happy to help
- Teamwork (unequal work) can be discussed with Dr. Linnes
- Students want more practice for lab practical and labs in general

BME 256 - Dr. Babbs and Carl Russell III (UTA)

- More practice problems
- Students wish there was more homework, possibly due before the exam
- Quizzes are the checkpoints before the exams

- Babbs is ready to create more homework to help understand lectures better
- TAs are ready to help explain concepts if needed
- Past student (Anjali) said that the structure for BME 256 is a good transition to tech electives since it is more independent work

BME 295 - Dr. Pienaar (not present) and Sumi Sekar (UTA)

- More practice questions
- Students get confused on collaboratives
- Would like more students to come in to lecture

BME 390 - Dr. Linnes

- Average of 3 hours is a good amount to spend on this studio course
- Hard deadlines would be appreciated
- More feedback would be helpful
- Students appreciate open-ended nature of the course

BME 306 - Asem

- 16 weeks long asked by students
 - Participants disagreed
- Gave students more freedom in design
- This is the last year they are offering this course, will be integrating it with the junior design course
- Material was excessively used, which led to shortage of supply

Resource Room - 67.76% students use the resource room

- Greatly appreciated by students
- Extending hours would be great
- Crowded
- Suggestions for opening up a separate room
- Adding extra days and additional TA would help with office hours to help with crowding
- SI Sessions would be helpful to learn about concepts
 - Office hours have leaned towards recitation style
 - Will try to have more TAs to explain concepts

Computer Lab

- People do use it rarely
- Helpful for COMSOL/Citrix
- Accepting requests to computer lab would be nice
- Not the most motivating environment
- Possibly creating it into a lounge area
- Would be nice to hear feedback from students to see what they would like to see

BME-specific Programming

- 42% interested in DEI training
- Dr. Linnes would like to hear more about what kind of workshops people would be interested in

Other concerns and comments

- Better communication between faculty and students
- More course options for tech electives would be nice

- Chantalle and Corey are pushing for more tech electives
 - Would like more options specifically for more QB/DS electives
 - Lack of 400 levels and waitlisting is hard to manage during batch registration
 - Aiming to hire 3 more new faculty next academic year
- Could use website to navigate organization and communication
- Availability to building during later hours is being worked on
 - Logistics being worked out
- Outdoor furniture- not under BME control
- Courses are rigorously evaluated and course descriptions are updated
- Sophomore course load rigor is demanding
 - Debatable by juniors
- Lack of BME recruiters at EXPO and IR
 - BME companies were not recruiting this year
 - Low year
 - Expected to increase
 - Initiate PESC connections
- Curriculum Expansion
 - Committee is working on it, pre-reqs and co-reqs
- Outreach
 - Dr. Tong's workshop
 - DEI committee can only draw from FYE pool