

FACULTY MEETING MINUTES**3:00 – 4:15 p.m.****March 27, 2025****FRNY 3059 & Zoom**

Faculty Attending: Bao, Basaran, Bernal, Corti, Dou, Gounder, Greeley, Harris, Hebner, Iglesia, Kim, Li, Martinez, Masuku, Mentzer, Miller, Morgan, Nagy, Pol, Reklaitis, Ribeiro, Robert, Schultz, Siirola, Tackett, Thomson, Wang, Won
Staff Attending: Fackelman, Finkbiner, Gonzalez, Johnson, Nagy, Zvinevich
GSO Attending: Gustafson Wagers

The February 27, 2025 faculty meeting minutes were approved with no corrections.

Announcements:

- A call for 2025 Mellichamp nominations will be emailed to faculty by Joshua Gonzalez, please respond with your suggested names.
- The DEA Events & Banquet are scheduled for April 10, 2025.
- Purdue Day of Giving will be on April 30, 2025, for details please reach out to the Development Office.
- The 2025 Kelly Lecture has been canceled and will be rescheduled; details will be forthcoming.
- Faculty are reminded of the [“Gas Cylinder Handling Procedures for FRNY Building”](#) and to communicate the importance of adhering to such procedures to their respective groups.

Undergraduate Committee:

1. The committee continued their discussion about developing new report guidelines for the fundamentals lab.
2. An issue related to first year chemistry 115 & 116, that has both a lecture and lab component, Chemistry is splitting off the lab component and making it a separate course. Also, those chemistry courses are getting quite large due to 1st year enrollment across the university, so the lab component will be in person as well as online. This was to go to the various schools to see whether both in person and virtual would count. The committee was preferred overwhelmingly that the lab be in person.
3. In our curriculum, students have to take at least one bio selective from the given list. Some of the courses that we approved for them to take out of biochemistry are being changed so that list is being modified so it doesn't really impact too many of our students.

Graduate Recruiting Committee:

1. The second stage of the recruiting process, which is meeting virtually with international candidates, has been completed. March 28 there will be an in person visit of about 5 people who have not yet made their decision and could not make the 1st weekend visit.
2. As of March 27, there are 26 who have accepted our offer, which is about 25% of our total offers made of 106. For context, last year at this time it was 14 who had accepted. Many of the prospective students have asked two questions:
 - a. “Will Purdue rescind the offer anytime soon?” As they've heard it happening at other universities.
 - b. “How does the changing Federal landscape funding affect the guarantee of my offer?” As some schools are not even guaranteeing the full 5 years of support

For these reasons, the committee does not believe it will drastically increase acceptance rates. The committee will meet soon to monitor the situation and if it is determined that a critical point has been met that will be discussed with Drs. Kim and Corti. The target of students was to have 30-35 accept.

FACULTY MEETING MINUTES – March 27, 2025Graduate Committee:

1. The committee passed a minor tweak to the rules on what comprises a masters with thesis subcommittee, just to ensure that there is an outside ChE member. It was pretty well accepted by the full committee.
2. A topic discussed was the use of AI and writing reports such as the Prelim and Qualifier. The committee is working on wording that will be encouraging students to use AI as a tool to help them in their writing but discouraging plagiarism by using AI to completely write your document. Input was considered by younger colleagues on ways to check suspicious documents and what to do should that arise.

Faculty Search Committee:

1. The LEAPS search has two offers out to two candidates, one in electrical engineering and the other in mechanical engineering. Negotiations are still underway. There are also two other candidates as backups in case the desired two do not work out.
2. A reminder, that the ChE faculty had a positive vote for an Associate Professor of Engineering Practice appointment for Michelle Chutka. This is now being discussed with the Dean and the Provost Office to create the position with a financial commitment coming from the PMP revenues.
3. The Dean's office, who is trying to incorporate the Purdue Military Research Institute (PMRI) into the College of Engineering, would like for there to be at least a partial appointment of 25% for Eric Dietz in the College. Thus, a visit is being planned for him to go through the process and interview with our School, a logical home for him as an alum. Thereafter, a faculty vote will be held regarding the appointment via email.
4. The faculty discussed and voted on a Distinguished Engineering Alumnus (DEA) Award for Christopher N. Bowman (BSChE '88, PhD '91), Distinguished Professor and James and Catherine Patten Endowed Chair of Chemical and Biological Engineering, University of Colorado. The vote passed unanimously with 29 ayes and 0 nays.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:39 p.m.