

FACULTY MEETING MINUTES**3:00 – 4:15 p.m.****November 13, 2025****FRNY 3059 & Zoom**

Faculty Attending: Bao, Beaudoin, Bernal, Chutka, Corti, Gounder, Harris, Hebner, Hibbitts, Iglesia, Li, Liu, Martinez, Masuku, Miller, Morgan, Narsimhan, Pol, Ramkrishna, Reklaitis, Ribeiro, Schultz, Sirola, Tackett, Won, Yuan

Staff Attending: DeLong, Fackelman, Gonzalez, Moser, Nagy, Raderstorf

The October 9, 2025 faculty meeting minutes were approved with no corrections.

Announcements:

- Stephanie Nunnally will be leaving CoE/ChE on Nov. 17 to support the Purdue Institute for Cancer Research and the College of Veterinary Medicine. Danielle Memmer will assume her Donor Relations and Stewardship responsibilities.
- Faculty & Staff Appreciation Reception will be held on Dec. 12 from 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. at the Purdue Memorial Union West Faculty Lounge
- The graduate seminar for Dr. Rafael Jaramillo on Dec. 9 has been canceled
- AIChE Regional Student Conference at Purdue in Spring 2026
- Dr. Jeffrey Hubbell (NYU) has agreed to be our 2026 Kelly Lecturer
- Dr. Chris Bowman (UC Boulder) will be our 2026 DEA: Thurs. Apr 9
- The job posting for a new ChE Communications staff member has been posted and is accepting applicants.

FRNY 1051 Faculty/Staff Lounge Discussion:

A discussion was held regarding the proposed conversion of FRNY 1051 into a faculty and staff lounge. During the conversation, the need to strengthen the department's sense of community was emphasized. The intent is to foster greater connection among faculty and staff—particularly junior faculty, given concerns that arose after recent departures. The faculty agreed to proceed with this plan.

Eric Dietz 25% Appointment in CHE

The Dean's Office requested that the faculty be provided with clarification regarding the proposed appointment and noted that the College will fund 25% of the position. Their concern is that, while he currently serves as Director of PMRI and Chemical Engineering receives 25% effort, if PMRI were discontinued in the future, the 25% appointment in ChE would remain and potentially place an additional burden on the School. They asked the faculty to consider three points: whether Eric Dietz has sufficient background in Chemical Engineering (he does—he holds a PhD from our School); whether there is meaningful research and collaboration synergy within the department (yes, with opportunities extending across Engineering); and whether he can teach core undergraduate and potentially graduate ChE courses (we do not foresee any issues with his ability, and his willingness can be confirmed through discussions with Joe Pekny and Eric Dietz). After a brief discussion, the faculty expressed comfort with the appointment and reaffirmed their support.

Undergraduate Committee:

1. In our curriculum, undergraduates are required to take a biology course to fulfill the biology selective. This requirement began with a specific course—Biology 230—and later expanded into a selective to give students more choice and to accommodate pre-med students who needed biologically focused courses for their requirements. Over time, the list grew to five or six courses but has since narrowed to one or two. The major change occurred when Biology canceled the course they had originally created for ChE, ABE, and BME, and they no longer allow our students to enroll in the equivalent biology major course. Similarly, Chemistry no longer permits our students to take their chemistry course. One course from the original list remains available, and we

FACULTY MEETING MINUTES – November 13, 2025

could consider adding another option if needed. In response to these restrictions, ABE and BME chose to teach their own biology courses in-house, though they encountered issues with students being left unregistered at the last minute. ABE ultimately hired an additional instructor and TA to offer another section of BME's course. The committee asked the faculty to confirm whether maintaining a biology requirement in the undergraduate curriculum is still important, as addressing these challenges—whether by teaching biology in-house or pursuing another solution—will require time and resources. One concern raised was the potential loss of students to ABE and BME if ChE were to remove the biology requirement. After discussion, faculty emphasized the importance of retaining the biology requirement in the curriculum. The consensus was clear that we should develop an in-house course and then vote on the final syllabus for that course.

2. The committee met with faculty to discuss the ABET Program Educational Objectives (PEOs) and to review the school's ABET Continuous Assessment Procedures for Fall 2025–Spring 2031. The ABET evaluator indicated that, although the review schedule was sufficient, a weakness had been issued due to insufficient documentation of PEO-related discussions. The committee is awaiting the official 30-day response in January 2026, and regardless of whether the issue is returned as a weakness or a concern, the College ABET Coordinator recommended that documentation efforts begin immediately. For the current review cycle, the PEOs will be reviewed at least twice: during the current Fall semester and again in Fall 2028. Student input will be collected through an Undergraduate Committee meeting. Faculty input will occur during Undergraduate Committee meetings and Faculty Meetings. IAC and alumni input will be obtained either through an IAC meeting or through distributed email surveys. Faculty engaged in substantive discussion and agreed that the existing PEOs should remain unchanged. A vote to reaffirm the current PEOs passed unanimously.

Graduate Recruiting Committee:

1. The Graduate Committee reported that fall recruiting activities have been completed and expressed appreciation to all who volunteered their time. More than 90 students visited and indicated interest in the program, and several have already begun their online applications. The application deadline for the 2026 cycle is December 1, and the committee will review all submitted applications at that time.
2. The committee is currently working with Marissa to finalize the language permitted for use in offer-weekend communications. Because official approval from higher Purdue administrative levels may not be secured by that time, clarification is needed regarding what may be stated in outreach to prospective invitees. The committee's intent remains to host visitors during the first weekend in February.
3. The committee noted the need to follow up with potential pre-admits from ICT or IIT so that they can make necessary preparations. Given that next year's incoming class is expected to be smaller, the committee considers a target of two pre-admits to be an appropriate and manageable number.

Graduate Committee:

1. The committee reviewed the results of the Qualifying Examination. Seventeen of the forty-four students did not pass on the first attempt, representing approximately 39%. While this rate is higher than in recent years, it is not the highest historically and is consistent with outcomes observed in Years 2 and 3 of the current Qualifying Exam format.
2. The committee held an extended discussion regarding the Professional Master's Program (PMP) and its potential expansion in an online format. Initial efforts will focus on the pharmaceutical certificate program due to strong student interest and because existing courses taught by Bill and Michelle already align with this concentration. The committee is exploring the conversion of selected courses into an online format that satisfies requirements for the pharmaceutical certificate, with the long-term goal of expanding this structure across the full PMP. The committee is evaluating projected margins relative to anticipated enrollment growth. Concurrently, the committee is considering modular versions of ChE 205, 306, and 348—condensed adaptations rather than direct online conversions—to support PMP students who do not have a chemical engineering background.

Faculty Search Committee:

1. Dr. Hibbitts provided a brief update on the cluster-hire process. Approximately 50–60 applicants are specific to Chemical Engineering, with a total of roughly 220 applicants across the four departments participating in the cluster. With assistance from Dr. Bao, the applications will be reviewed and assigned to the subcommittee members identified at the previous meeting. The goal is to identify ten applicants for Zoom interviews, finalize that list by November 26, and conduct the interviews immediately following the Thanksgiving break. The full cluster committee will determine which of the ten applicants from each department will be invited for on-site interviews. The general expectation is to schedule five on-site interviews, though this number remains flexible. The position is formally open at the Assistant or Associate Professor level, and the subcommittee requested faculty guidance on whether to prioritize Assistant Professor candidates, consistent with the discussion at the prior faculty meeting. The subcommittee's sense is that nearly all participating departments intend to target Assistant-level hires. The subcommittee also aims to ensure that the ten selected applicants represent diverse research areas rather than being concentrated in a single area and requested faculty input on this point. Faculty expressed agreement that strong candidates should never be overlooked and endorsed focusing on Assistant Professor candidates while directing strong Associate-level applicants to the TBH process.
2. The faculty discussed the Talent-Based Hiring (TBH) process and agreed that efforts should begin promptly rather than be postponed, given the rolling nature of TBH. To initiate discussion on targeted research areas, faculty reviewed the school's current research strengths. The general impression was that if multiple strong candidates are identified, the college is likely to support advancing them, and there does not appear to be a strict limit on the number of candidates. Several faculty members felt the priority should be identifying strong candidates who meet TBH criteria—expected to be a small group—and then determining which research areas to emphasize. Another suggestion was to recruit the strongest Assistant-level candidates while strategically targeting mid-career individuals to nucleate and grow particular research areas. This approach would be facilitated by establishing a committee to gather ideas from faculty, maintain an ongoing list of potential candidates, and coordinate nominations. Once an initial list is established, faculty suggested gauging candidate interest by inviting them to give a seminar. The college, however, prefers to approve candidates before such visits and to have confirmation that they are potentially movable. Many faculty members emphasized that allowing candidates to visit is essential and should occur early to avoid expending effort without realistic prospects. Some schools address this by proceeding in parallel—submitting names to the Dean for approval while also hosting seminar visits. The faculty agreed to create a second ad hoc committee to manage the TBH process. Faculty interested in serving were asked to email Dr. Corti. If insufficient volunteers come forward, a committee will be formed to ensure representation across the school's research areas.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:13p.m.