

FACULTY MEETING MINUTES**3:00 – 4:15 p.m.****October 9, 2025****FRNY 3059 & Zoom**

Faculty Attending: Alexeenko, Bao, Basaran, Bernal, Corti, Gounder, Harris, Li, Liu, Mansson, Martinez, Masuku, Miller, Morgan, Narsimhan, Pol, Ramkrishna, Reklaitis, Ribeiro, Schultz, Siirola, Tackett, Wang, Won, Yuan

Staff Attending: DeLong, Fetter, Gonzalez, Johnson, Nagy, Zvinevich

The September 11, 2025 faculty meeting minutes were approved with no corrections.

Announcements:

- The next round of voting for the 2026 Kelly Lecturer was emailed by Joshua Gonzalez. Faculty are strongly encouraged to vote for their desired nominee.
- PhD Qualifying Procedure: Oct. 13-17
- AIChE Annual Meeting Reception will be on Monday, Nov. 3 at the Sheraton Boston in the Back Bay Ballroom C from 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. ET.
 - On Nov. 5, you are invited to a set of sessions in honor of Jeffrey Siirola
- In April 2024, the DOJ issued a revised ruling under the ADA, requiring that all student-facing web and digital content be accessible. Purdue must comply with these requirements by April 24, 2026. (www.purdue.edu/innovativelearning/tools-resources/accessibility/)
- CoE: Faculty video projects
- Communications position in CHE
- AIChE Student Chapter: Christel House Volunteer Event, Oct. 22
- AIChE Regional Conference at Purdue in Spring 2026 (D. Bernal)

Online Education Resources Presentation by Alina Alexeenko:

Dr. Alexeenko provided an overview of online instruction and program growth: With extensive experience teaching online, she encouraged faculty to reach out with any questions and shared insights on course planning and development. For Spring 2025, there are 5,804 students enrolled in credit-bearing programs on the PWL Campus, reflecting approximately 10% year-over-year growth. Additionally, there are 13,852 enrollments in faculty-led, fee-based micro-credential and non-degree programs, and 15,061 residential students (14,081 undergraduate, 863 graduate, and 117 professional) leveraging online coursework for flexibility. Since 2016, MS program enrollment on the PWL campus has increased from 4,373 to 6,765, while residential enrollment has declined from 61% to 43%, and online enrollment has grown from 31% to 57%. Most programs now operate as blended cohorts, with the same faculty teaching both residential and online students. Developing a pre-recorded lecture model—the preferred approach—earns a \$36,000 grant per 3-credit-hour course, with full production support from Purdue Online (e.g., instructional designers, videographers). Faculty teaching compensation is \$200 per student for pre-recorded courses and \$275 per student for legacy lecture-capture courses; both can be taken as overload or discretionary funding with no cap. Dr. Alexeenko also discussed gross revenue distribution, shared examples of FY 2025 discretionary funding across engineering schools, and highlighted the successful LyoHub online course, which took a year to develop and now has over 1,000 enrolled students.

Undergraduate Committee:

1. Dr. Corti provided an ABET update: The evaluator met with several faculty members, and while the visit went well overall, the program received a weakness due to insufficient documentation of the review process for the Program Educational Objectives (PEOs). Although some evidence was provided—such as meeting agendas and presentations—it did not clearly demonstrate that formal discussions had taken place (this was a common issue with several other schools). An initial issue with one of the 1–7 student outcomes was quickly resolved during

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the visit and removed from consideration. Similar findings were reported for Mechanical and Electrical Engineering. A semi-official statement from ABET is expected in January, after which there will be a 30-day review period to submit corrective documentation. If accepted, the weakness will be downgraded to a concern.

Graduate Committee:

1. The Graduate Committee met last month to discuss initial plans for graduate student matching. He will hold interim meetings midway through the process and noted that he has been meeting with many first-year students; faculty who have not yet done so are encouraged to notify him. The committee is reviewing the project list to identify potential mismatches—projects with no interest or with excessive interest—to make necessary adjustments before final submission.
2. For students who received an unsatisfactory research evaluation, the committee agreed that more detailed guidance should be provided in their research contracts. The current boilerplate contract outlines general expectations for lab conduct and safety but lacks specificity. Moving forward, students continuing into their second semester after an unsatisfactory review will receive a more detailed contract specifying areas for improvement. Bev Johnson is developing an Adobe fillable form to help faculty document these additional expectations.
3. In response to a faculty inquiry, the current policy on AI use requires students to cite any use of AI tools, and if asked, they must be able to show the source(s) referenced.

Grad Recruiting Committee:

4. For Spring 2026 admits, although several talented students expressed interest in our program, we unfortunately do not have the capacity to admit students for the spring term. Interested applicants should be referred to the Fall 2026 application window.
5. Regarding Fall recruiting, we plan to host one virtual information session to reach prospective students who are unable to meet in person, and one in-person session at the AIChE Fall Meeting on Sunday at the recruiting booth from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Faculty are welcome to assist with recruiting or stop by the booth for any amount of time (15–60 minutes) to engage with prospective students. Faculty planning to participate are encouraged to email Bev, so she knows when to expect them. This is an excellent opportunity to connect with potential students, especially those who may align with specific research areas.
6. We anticipate a smaller incoming class for Fall 2026 to restore balance to current enrollment levels. The in-person Colloquium Weekend will be scaled back to a single event, with a reduction from 40 to 25 hotel rooms. Given the smaller intake and the absence of spring admissions, faculty needing students for their projects this year or next are encouraged to recruit now.
7. Dr. Ramkrishna noted that two of our alumni have joined the faculty at IIT in India and inquired about the possibility of pre-admits. Dr. Gounder confirmed that we plan to maintain a fraction of the class as domestic and international pre-admits, particularly from universities with which we have strong relationships. The target is typically one to two pre-admitted students per partner institution to strengthen these pipelines.

Faculty Search Committee:

1. Dr. Bao provided an update from the committee on the Advanced Cluster Hire, which met last Wednesday. Applications will be sorted by department, allowing each to narrow its pool to approximately 10 candidates for Zoom interviews. At this stage, a separate ChE subcommittee may not be necessary; however, faculty input and assistance will be needed in reviewing applications and participating in interviews. The startup packages will only be available at the assistant professor level, and each of the four participating programs will have the opportunity to hire a tenure-track assistant professor. If a more senior candidate is selected, the hiring department will be responsible for supplementing the startup funds. The faculty agreed to target an assistant-level hire. Dr. Bao noted that the position advertisement requires Dean's approval, and once posted, he will share it with faculty for distribution. An ad hoc committee will be formed to assist Drs. Bao and Hibbitts with reviewing applications; previous volunteers will be contacted by Dr. Corti. The main committee plans to begin reviewing applications by

November 15, finalize names for Zoom interviews by November 26, conduct interviews between November and December, and hold on-site interviews in January.

2. Head Search Committee Update: Interviews were completed last week, and the committee will be meeting soon to discuss the candidates. On-site visits are scheduled for the last two weeks of October. Faculty requested flexibility in adjusting these dates; however, the Dean's Office was unable to accommodate those changes.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:21p.m.