

**FACULTY MEETING MINUTES****3:00 – 4:15 p.m.****November 14, 2024****FRNY 3059 & Zoom**

Faculty Attending: Agrawal, Bao, Bernal, Corti, Dou, Gounder, Harris, Hebner, Iglesia, Kim, Li, Liu, Masuku, Mentzer, Miller, Morgan, Nagy, Narsimhan, Pol, Ribeiro, Ristroph, Schultz, Siirola, Tackett, Thomson, Wang, Yuan

Staff Attending: Fackelman, Gonzalez, B. Johnson, Moser, Nagy

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The October 17, 2024 faculty meeting minutes were approved with no corrections.

Announcements:

- A candidate visit is being arranged for Michelle Chutka for a faculty appointment at our School and endorsed by Dr. Bill Clark. An email will be sent with details, please submit your availability for a meeting with her. The visit is planned to take place through the course of a week to ensure she can meet with a large number of faculty. Thereafter, the topic will be discussed at the December Faculty Meeting.
- The Faculty & Staff Appreciation Lunch will be held at the Lafayette Country Club on December 6, 2024 starting at 12:00 – 1:30 p.m. Details along with an RSVP were sent via email. Be sure to RSVP by November 19, 2024.
- Our current Facilities Evening Crew Chief, Aaron Spurling, has accepted a new position. In the interim, Jovan Neubauer will be handling cleaning responsibilities for ChE starting November 27. Should you encounter anything that needs attention please contact Jeff Valley or Joshua Gonzalez.

National & International Scholarships Office (NISO) Presentation by Rosanne Altstatt:

NISO is Purdue's nominating and organizing body for prestigious scholarships as well as grants to which students can now apply to directly. They work with fourteen scholarships and grants including STEM scholarships. Purdue has undergraduate and graduate students as well as alumni receiving awards every year. These people may be names you send us via the regular email that faculty receive from NISO. Those names are then reviewed by NISO staff and nominated for the scholarships they qualify for. Faculty are encouraged to send these names to NISO ([niso@purdue.edu](mailto:niso@purdue.edu)) at any point in time. For those interested in Fulbright scholarships, please contact Chris Lukasik ([clukasik@purdue.edu](mailto:clukasik@purdue.edu)).

These scholarships are not financial aid, and both U.S. citizens as well as international students qualify for various ones (dependent upon foundation's eligibility qualify). Along with these, NISO teaches students how to properly write for scholarships, grants, grad school, etc. and help students reflect upon and define personal/professional goals. NISO also offers workshops, info sessions, and advises them. Among all the presentation statistics, exit surveys highlighted three things such as 97% of students agreed that "the process of applying for a national scholarship or grant prompted them to reflect on and refine their post-graduate options, career options and/or goals." Secondly, that 93% of students agreed that they are "better able to explain their field and academic interests in a way that can be understood by a broad audience." Lastly, that 95% of students "feel their applications for internships, graduate/professional schools, jobs or other opportunities will be more competitive." Associate Dean Altstatt discussed other roles for NISO and faculty along with more statistics, all of which she will be emailing to faculty.

Undergraduate Committee:

1. Nothing new to report.

**FACULTY MEETING MINUTES – November 14, 2024**Graduate Recruiting Committee:

1. Students that applied for the spring were evaluated and none were deemed at the level of the fall class. Thus, no spring 2025 admissions are anticipated.
2. The proposal to increase the PhD stipend up to \$40k a year is still under review. The language in the offer letters especially regarding this stipend has to be approved by the College before the Committee is able to send them to prospective students. Marissa is helping Dr. Gounder to impress upon them that a decision is needed by December 1 due to that being the application deadline for fall 2025.
3. The Committee is taking input on an interview system for international applicants due to more applications being submitted where letters were written by Chat GPT. Making them not an accurate reflection of their English skills. The faculty discussed this further with Dr. Gounder.

Graduate Committee:

1. The Committee proposed and unanimously passed a retake policy for core courses for graduate students. Currently students can retake any number of their core courses, and the Committee wants to restrict this to one. One of the three reasons being that there is an additional burden that the students retaking the core course add to the size of the cohort. For example, right now there are 42 incoming students and 7 students retaking courses making at times the course as big as 50. This burdens the instructor and the TA. The main reason for the revision is to empathize the importance of focusing on core courses the first year. There is feedback from the core course instructors that some students sometimes just give up half way through the course, knowing that they can just retake it the following year. The last reason is the desire to not overburden students with retaking courses when they have their qualifying exam the following year. This was discussed further with faculty and then a vote was held. The vote to approve this proposal was passed unanimously by faculty.
2. A recommendation was made for courses that have 40+ students to be allocated a second TA.
3. The Committee has gone through the first round of advisor selection and it looks like there may be four or five students left over. There are still seven unpicked projects so a second round will be held to try to match them to funded projects.

Faculty Search Committee:

1. Dr. Pushkar Lele had enough interest to move forward with the College. Dr. Kelly Schultz worked on that process and submitted it to Associate Dean Luna Lu awaiting approval.
2. Dr. Sangtae Kim discussed the possibility of Dr. Bryan Boudouris considering returning to Purdue.
3. Lastly, Dr. Kim explained his terms for accepting a second term as School Head and committed to three of the five years of the term, with every year thereafter on a case-by-case basis depending on his health. With the completion of his fourth year in the summer of 2025, and keeping in mind that he believes having the opportunity to interview for the School Head position would bolster the odds of Dr. Boudouris returning to our School, Dr. Kim has informed Dean Arvind Raman of his intention to step down as School Head beginning July 1, 2025.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:09 p.m.