

FACULTY MEETING MINUTES**3:00 – 4:15 p.m.****December 12, 2024****FRNY 3059 & Zoom**

Faculty Attending: Agrawal, Bao, Clark, Corti, Gounder, Greeley, Harris, Hebner, Iglesia, Kim, Li, Liu, Martinez, Masuku, Miller, Morgan, Nagy, Narsimhan, Pol, Robert, Schultz, Siirola, Tackett, Thomson, Wang, Won

Staff Attending: Fackelman, Gonzalez, B. Johnson, Zvinevich

The November 14, 2024 faculty meeting minutes were approved with no corrections.

Announcements:

- Jim Riehle will start as the Senior Maintenance Mechanic on December 16, 2024.
- Jeff Valley plans on retiring on January 10, 2025. Jason Davenport will assume Building Deputy duties and the hiring process for the new Shipping & Receiving Coordinator has been initiated.
- Dr. Jim Caruthers will be retiring at the end of this term.
- For the January 23rd Faculty Meeting, the Research Security & Export Controls (RSEC) will be presenting updates on new federal mandates for research security.
- The 2025 Kelly Lecturer, Dr. Frank Doyle, will visit from April 23-25, 2025. Thus, the April Faculty Meeting will be rescheduled for Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 3 p.m.

Undergraduate Committee:

1. The committee met and discussed elective suggestions for fall 2025. Also continued the discussion of updating and proposing new types of lab reports for the Fundamentals Lab.

Graduate Recruiting Committee:

1. Approval was received to increase the PhD stipend to \$40,000. Along with this, the student support that the School is providing will be changed from 9 months to 8 months. For the time being, the advisor will pick up the ninth month. Due to student offer letter deadlines, this change was implemented in order to send those out on time with the intention of working back to restoring the School covering that ninth month again.
2. The committee has started with the fall 2025 review process and has completed the first round of applications from students in U.S. institutions. With this, 68 offers have been extended. It appears that the strength of the applicant pools was better this year than previous years. Though the final numbers at the end of the entire process may be lower due to the landscape being so competitive and applicants being noticeably stronger. At this stage, focus will be shifted to reviewing international applications.

Graduate Committee:

1. With regards to the advisor matching procedure, the last two cases are being finalized. Currently there are 43 of 45 students matched, with the final two are awaiting confirmation from the advisor. Thereafter, the list will be disseminated to all.

Faculty Search Committee:

1. Dr. Kim discussed research expenditures for 2024, mentioning that the annual total was \$19.8 million. In comparison, the annual total in 2019 was \$11.6 million. This was in accordance to the CoE's strategic plan to double research expenditures over a period of five years. Our School was the one unit to actually

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meet this goal while the college as a whole will meet it in 10 years rather than the desired five. With this, there are about 4 or 5 faculty that could, if they so choose, pay half of their annual salary from their external funding. In part to meet the time and obligations demanded or expected of them by their research sponsors, etc. With this, and other examples, the School periodically receives requests from faculty to be excused from teaching on a particular semester (above and beyond the normal sabbatical program).

This means that we are now in a situation where the teaching load is no longer one course per semester. Other chemical engineering departments have responded by creating instructional positions. There are two of these types, an instructor role which can be part-time or full-time and non-professorial. The other type being the Professor of Engineering Practice, of which we currently have five in our School. Dr. Kim proceeded to discuss the survey results from the faculty responses on the subject, which were very positive to both types of positions. Tied with this, he requested that faculty increase their participation in interviewing Michelle Chutka. She has applied for a position within our School, and her first round of interviewing was lacking in faculty participation. After further discussion and explanation from Dr. Kim, the faculty agreed to proceed with these types of instructor positions. Thus, a second round of interviewing will be held for Michelle Chutka in January, with faculty now understanding the intent and purpose.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:59 p.m.