

MINUTES

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING FACULTY ORGANIZATION (CEFO)

Thursday, November 12, 2009, 12:30 PM

CHHS, Room 380

The following individuals signed the attendance sheet:

- COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING: M. Castle, D. Furr, R. Johnson, T. Rufty, R. Smelser
- CIVIL ENGINEERING: J. Bowen, H. Hilger, M. Kane, S. Pulugurtha, K. Warren, D. Young
- ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING: D. Binkley, N. Bousaba, J. Conrad, Y. Kakad, M. Miri, A. Nasipuri, E. Stokes, F. Tranjan, J. Xie.
- ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT: C. Lim, E. Ozelkan, Y. Sireli, S.G. Teng.
- ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY: A. Brizendine, N. Byars, D. Cottrell, B. Gehrig, J. Hildreth, D. Hoch, T. Jarrell, P. Kabengela, J. Kimble, A. Kitts, N. Lu, D. Murphy, T. Nicholas, M. Noras, C. Orozco, R. Priebe, P. Schmidt, D. Sharer, B. Sherlock, R. Swan, J. Urbas, S. Wang, A. Zhou.
- MECHANICAL ENGINEERING AND ENGINEERING SCIENCE: A. El-Ghannam, H. Fang, Y. Lee, B. Mullany, J. Raquet, M. Uddin, H. Zhang, N. Zheng.
- GUESTS: D. Blackmon, W. Heybruck, W. Simineau, J. Stein, L. Thurman

Documented attendance: 60 total, 44 voting faculty.

Quorum of voting faculty: 52.

1. Welcome

CEFO president James Bowen called the meeting to order at 12:33 p.m.

2. Football Seat Licenses (Linda Swayne)

Linda Swayne (Professor of Marketing), Jeanne Madorin (director of employee relations training and compliance), and Tim Ernst (past president of SGA) gave a presentation on the advantages of football to the University and encouraging faculty to support it by purchasing football seat licenses.

3. Approval of Minutes (Barry Sherlock)

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2009 CEFO meeting was seconded and passed.

4. Pros/Cons for +/- Grading System (David Binkley)

David Binkley (COE representative on the Faculty Council) described a +/- grading system that is due to be voted on shortly by the Faculty Council. If approved, this would introduce additional new grades of D-, D+, C-, C+, B-, B+ and A-. A handout (attached) presented the advantages and disadvantages of such a scheme. Bowen called for an informal vote to gauge the degree of COE faculty support. This showed 25 in favor of the proposed change, and 12 opposed. Binkley stated that the vote in Faculty Council would likely be a close one. Our college has 6 votes at the Faculty Council.

5. COE Connect Primer (Jack Stein)

Jack Stein demonstrated the installation and use of *COE Connect*, newly released software from Mosaic that lets one connect to one's Mosaic workstation from a laptop or other home computer (Windows 7-32 bit, XP, or Vista) in a seamless way. It also enables one to remotely run software licensed for use only on Mosaic machines. Initial trials have been very successful. Wes Simineau deserves all the credit for the development of COE Connect.

6. Research Administration Presentation (Steve Mosier)

Steve Mosier, Vice Chancellor for Research and Federal Relations, gave a presentation on changes that are being made to the administration of research grants and contracts. Amongst other changes, a faculty service center will be formed, for dealing with grant-related problems experienced by faculty, with a goal of solving all issues within 24 hours.

7. College update (Dean Johnson)

- **Strategic Plan:** This is now being prepared; faculty are encouraged to participate. Diversity of faculty and students is an important issue that will need to be addressed in the plan.
- **ABET:** The ABET accreditation visit is next Fall. This is obviously a very important matter for all programs involved; please help out as called upon.
- **Budget:** The budget situation has not changed dramatically. There is an ongoing 5% reversion. The University can absorb the current situation well, but the fact that State sales taxes are down 1.9% is worrying for the future. Departments should keep major equipment lists up to date, however: should it turn out that things improve, these may be needed at short notice.
- **Robert D. Snyder Road.** This road was recently dedicated by Chancellor Dubois in a ceremony in honor of former Dean Bob Snyder. Bob Snyder was COE dean for a period of 23 years.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

+/- Grading Proposal, Faculty Council Vote on November 19

A (4.00), A- (3.67), B+ (3.33), B (3.00), B- (2.67), C+ (2.33), C (2.00),
C- (1.67), D+ (1.33), D (1.00), D- (0.67), F (0.00)

Pros	Cons	Neutral Facts
Higher resolution in grading scales – more flexibility	UG Student Government Association is against it	Faculty set own grading scales and may choose to use +/-, just +, or neither +/-, etc.
Fairness in grading (e.g., both 81 and 89 might yield grades of B, while 91 might yield A and 79 a C)	Athletic Dept. and Honors College are against it (concerns about grade-based eligibility)	NC State & UNC Chapel Hill have +/- grading; Ga. Tech. does not
Motivational (e.g., a low B student will study harder for the final to raise his/her course grade to the next level because it would be reachable)	Anecdotal evidence exists that +/- grading will result in an increase of grade appeals	1996 NC State study showed that impact of +/- grading on mean GPA of students was within the margin of error
The prestige of the “A” grade will increase	The percent of students with 4.0 GPA will decrease	Progression requirements & grade-based eligibility standards may need to be updated
FAPSC has voted 12 to 1 in favor of it (UG student rep. has voted against it)	Does not include A+ but includes D- which may have a downward impact on mean GPA	Effective date of Fall 2011 will provide enough time for all needed policy updates
Registrar has said that his office can implement +/- by Fall 2011	Faculty Executive Council has not endorsed it	Effective Fall 2011 for undergraduates (GGC to decide for grad students by Fall 2011)