

**PURDUE UNIVERSITY College of Engineering**  
**Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**January 22, 2025 - 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m., ARMS 3041**

| Member               | Title                                         | Unit | Term Ends | Present |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------|-----------|---------|
| David Bahr           | Sr. Associate Dean of Faculty                 | COE  | N/A       | Y       |
| Karen Marais         | Professor                                     | AAE  | 2027      | Y       |
| Marshall Porterfield | Professor                                     | ABE  | 2026      | Y-Teams |
| Andrew Brightman     | Professor of Practice                         | BME  | 2025      | Y       |
| Ted Weidner          | Professor of Practice                         | CCE  | 2025      | Y       |
| Jeffrey Miller       | Professor                                     | ChE  | 2025      | Y       |
| Stanislaw Zak        | Professor                                     | ECE  | 2025      | Y       |
| Abigail Engelberth   | Associate Professor                           | EEE  | 2025      | N       |
| Joyce Main           | Professor                                     | ENE  | 2027      | Y       |
| Susan Hunter         | Associate Professor                           | IE   | 2025      | Y       |
| Neera Jain           | Associate Professor                           | ME   | 2026      | Y-Teams |
| Mike Titus           | Associate Professor                           | MSE  | 2027      | Y       |
| Chan Choi            | Professor                                     | NE   | 2026      | N       |
| Kathy Heath          | Managing Director, Office of Academic Affairs | OAA  | N/A       | Y       |
| Robin Benson         | Sr. Administrative Asst.                      | OAA  | N/A       | Y       |

### **Purpose and Charter of the FAC**

[https://engineering.purdue.edu/Engr/AboutUs/Administration/AcademicAffairs/Policies/engineering\\_faculty\\_bylaws.html](https://engineering.purdue.edu/Engr/AboutUs/Administration/AcademicAffairs/Policies/engineering_faculty_bylaws.html)

**Engineering Faculty Affairs Committee:** *Members of the committee shall consist of one representative each from the voting members of the faculties of the schools, departments and divisions of engineering, plus the Dean of Engineering or the Dean's designated representative. Members representing the schools, departments and divisions shall be elected by ballot by the voting members of their respective faculties, except that Heads of engineering schools, departments and divisions shall be ineligible for membership. Each member shall normally serve for three years beginning with the start of the fall semester. No member shall serve continuously for more than six years.*

*This committee shall:*

- a) Advise the Dean on issues regarding faculty affairs.*
- b) Suggest and provide ways and means for effective communication among all members of the engineering academic community.*
- c) Obtain nominations for and supervise elections to engineering committees as required by these bylaws or by University Regulations.*
- d) Review appointments to engineering committees which require a vote for the election of the members.*
- e) Advise the Dean relative to the agenda of faculty meetings, matters relating to membership of various committees, and other matters affecting committee and faculty activities.*
- f) Serve in other capacities as requested by the Dean or the faculty.”*

## **FAC Members**

[https://engineering.purdue.edu/Engr/People/Committees/ptPeopleListing?group\\_id=23820](https://engineering.purdue.edu/Engr/People/Committees/ptPeopleListing?group_id=23820)

## **Agenda and Discussion Leaders**

1. Meeting Administration – Joyce Main
  - a. The meeting was called to order at 12:31 p.m.
  - b. Attendees were provided copies of the December 2024 meeting minutes and asked to review. Hearing no objections, the minutes were unanimously approved.
  - c. The meeting agenda was presented and unanimously approved.
  - d. Joyce provided an overview of the procedures for adding items to the FAC Agenda. An official Procedures for Adding Items on the Agenda and Inviting Speakers was shared with committee members via email, after the meeting.
2. **Dr. David Bahr**, Senior Associate Dean for Faculty, provided an introduction to the committee.
  - a. Dave outlined his new role, which encompasses four components:
    - i. Faculty Hiring – Providing help for search committees to attract the best candidates.
    - ii. Promotion and Tenure – Reviewing the processes for faculty promotions and integrating them within Purdue Indianapolis.
    - iii. External Recognitions – The cadence and timeframe for awards has clearly increased at the university level. The university is looking at the NRC list of prestigious awards, which doesn’t necessarily align with individual faculty’s perception of awards, specific to their academic community. We want to balance that and help faculty be as successful as possible.
    - iv. Professional Development - What can we do to help our people be the best they can be? One recent example is the recent Open Access Publishing Workshop. We will continue to provide as much relevant information as possible from our office. Dave is also willing to hold ‘Ask Me Anything’ sessions where he can provide answers to whatever questions the faculty may have.
3. **Ashlee Messersmith**, Assistant Director for External Faculty Recognitions, within the CoE Office of Academic Affairs, presented an overview of the External Recognitions operations

and services within the college. Ashlee also demonstrated the newly-developed External Recognitions Database, which is live on our website and available for all faculty and staff, using their Career Account login and password. The Database is accessible from the CoE OAA Website, or by going to: <https://engineering.purdue.edu/Engr/People/Awards>. The Database provides an easy way for faculty to find opportunities for recognition. If you see ways to improve it, please let us know. Additionally, if you have won any of these awards and find that your name is not on the website, please let us know that as well, as we strive to ensure complete and accurate information. The information within the database is derived from Academic Analytics, so if errors are found, we want to improve those source stats and reports as well.

Committee members provided some suggestions for improvement, including 1) the ability to 'save a search'; 2) separating feedback into multiple options including a) needing assistance, b) missing information, and c) feedback for site improvement; and 3) adding a Keyword field for more defined filtering.

Ashlee continued by demonstrating the various reports that are available from the website/database, including honorific awards, previous awardees, and pathways spreadsheets.

Dave alerted the committee members and asked for their assistance in reminding their colleagues to not pull reports from this database and upload any results into Chat GPT. Academic Analytics has very strong restrictions to keep this information within Purdue, which is the reason for the login requirement. This is an internal-use database.

4. Proposed agenda items for future FAC meetings: Some discussion was held surrounding recent Senate Bills, specifically SB202 and how it will affect faculty members. It was stated that the Bills, along with the guidance that has been provided by Purdue are difficult to interpret. There were expressions of insecurity surrounding faculty understanding of the information. A question arose as to whether we should provide engineering-specific guidelines for faculty. Dave announced that the Engineering Heads were briefed by the Dean and Purdue's legal team, and have been tasked with discussing it with their own departments. Dave indicated that we must be careful about providing interpretations; it is better to develop questions that we can ask of our legal team.
5. T. Weidner said there is another Senate Bill under consideration that could provide opportunities for individuals without degrees, who hold 25 years of contractor experience, to take the FE and PE Exams, leading to certification as a PE. The big concern would be that individuals can become a PE without an ABET-accredited degree. How will that impact our university standing?
6. Joyce invited additional agenda items for future meetings.
7. Next meeting: **Wednesday, February 12, 2025, 12:30-1:30 p.m. – ARMS 3041**
8. Meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.