

School of Mechanical Engineering

ME WebEX Open Forum

April 3, 2020

Attending:

Eckhard Groll	George Chiu	Peter Meckl
Jackie Baumgardt	Jim Jones	Sameer Naik
Adrian Buganza Tepole	John Pearson	Satish Boregowda
Ajay Malshe	Julia King	Sheri Tague
Amy Marconnet	Kejie Zhao	Tami Armstrong
Anil Bajaj	Kristin Deckard Dawson	Thomas Siegmund
Arezoo Ardekani	Liang Pan	Xianfan Xu
Bin Yao	Marisol Koslowski	Xiaomin Qian
Bob Lucht	Mike Logan	Xiulin Ruan
Martha Lucht	Mike Sherwood	Greg Jenson
Bumsoo Han	Nicole Key	Ivan Christov
David Cappelleri	Nina Mahmoudian	Scott Meyer
Davide Ziviani	Patricia Hunt	Song Zhang
Davin Piercey	Pavlos Vlachos	

Eckhard made the following announcements:

1. Faculty Promotions

- Eckhard announced that the following faculty promotions in the School of ME, effective in August 2020, were ratified by the Board of Trustee (BOT) today:
 - I. Ilias Billionis was promoted to Associate Professor.
 - II. Marcial Gonzalez was promoted to Associate Professor.
 - III. Carlo Scalo was promoted to Associate Professor.
 - IV. Kejie Zhao was promoted to Associate Professor.
 - V. Ardekani Ardekani was promoted to Full Professor.
 - VI. Hector Gomez was promoted to Full Professor.
 - VII. Fu Zhao was promoted to Full Professor.

Eckhard congratulated all seven faculty members and thanked them for their outstanding contributions to the School of ME.

2. Update on Pete's Pals Program

- The program is now up to 22 undergraduate students and 25 faculty and staff volunteers.
- A few faculty and staff volunteers have more than one student. Therefore, we still have 10 faculty and staff volunteers, who have not been assigned to a student. We are still trying to recruit more students.

- Eckhard sent out a Qualtrics survey on Thursday morning asking faculty to let him and the Undergraduate Office know if they have any students that have been disengaged in our online instruction effort since Spring Break. The web link for the survey is as follows:

https://purdue.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e3fM4AUU79RveDj

- Once identified, we will then attempt to contact these students to see what is going on. Depending on their situation and need, they will also be added to the Pete's Pals program. The deadline to complete the Qualtrics Survey is Monday.

3. Summer Courses

- Mark Lundstrom sent out an email this morning stating that our summer courses will move forward as scheduled. This includes all scheduled summer courses in ME. However, it is prudent that we think about teaching all of these courses online. Eckhard requested that the instructors scheduled to teach summer courses provide a commitment for teaching online, as necessary. If any of the instructors have concerns about teaching online this summer, please contact Eckhard immediately so that the School can appoint someone else to teach the course.

4. Summer Bridge Programs (these are in addition to our regularly scheduled summer courses)

- The summer bridge programs are needed to serve 3 specific student groups. These program will be in addition to our regular summer courses mentioned above.

- I. The first program focuses on students that participate in a Study Abroad program this spring and had to come back before completing their academic courses as well as students who were planning on going on Study Abroad during the Maymester or Summer Session. These students need courses for credit. We can move them into our existing summer courses as best as possible but we would also like to create one or two new enrollment opportunities.
 - One opportunity should be a for-credit team-based project experience, and could be similar to Senior Design or VIP, that our students could take as a tech elective.
 - A second opportunity could be one of our regular 400-level 3-credit hour tech elective courses.
- II. The second program is for those students who had offers for co-op work sessions or internships rescinded. These students do not need credits and we do not want to register them as it would be an unnecessary financial burden on them. Instead, we are considering if we can afford to pay them a small participation scholarship. We are currently considering two opportunities for them:
 - We could create an opportunity similar to our SURF program (research projects initiated by faculty), but for a small group of students on a team, instead of individual students as done in SURF. This would be similar to a VIP project, but without credit. These student teams would be supervised by faculty/graduate students.
 - A second option focuses on team-based student projects, where the topics are generated by our technical service staff (for the benefit of the School of ME) and the

student teams are supervised by our technical service staff. This could somewhat simulate an industrial setting,

III. The third program is for international students, who are currently finishing their degree at other universities in the US and who we have recruited to start Graduate School at Purdue in August. We are asking these students to not go back to their home country as they will most likely not be able to return to the US by August, but instead to stay in the US so they can start their graduate programs in August (this would eliminate visa issues). We would like to offer them a summer bridge program that includes housing (including housing allowance) as they may not have any other place to live. Opportunities for them could include team-based projects as outlined under 2. above, or to start them on their research projects early, as desired by their faculty advisors.

- The details of any of these options are yet to be determined. There will be more to come during the next couple of weeks.

- Questions:

- Greg Jensen: His thinking is focused on the GEARE students, who had to return early this spring semester and would qualify for a course similar to Senior Design. He would register them for the lecture part of Senior Design and would open up a second lab section to accommodate them. Depending on the number of students, we could potentially add two sections to cover these students.

Eckhard: This is accurate and really needed, specifically for the GEARE students. We still need some sort of project-based course during this summer, for credit, not for pay. In addition, we may also need a lecture-based tech elective course that could be project-based. This would follow the VIP model.

- Greg: If we did something like that, we could potentially model it like a reverse engineering course where the students are challenged to take on an object and model it up and use analysis to try to improve the design that they are working on using the virtual CADs, EAE and CAM tools that we have on our network.

Eckhard: This is a very good idea and we should add that to our list of options and continue to finalize these opportunities for our students next week as we had planned.

- Ajay Malshe: If there is a need and an opportunity, he would be happy to teach a new tech elective course this summer on innovation and prioritization. He has taught a course like this before at his previous institution.

Eckhard: This is a great idea considering that we have a significant number of students who have lost their scheduled programs and opportunities and will have less to do this summer. It would be great to have a course like this to offer to them this summer as a tech elective. We will take this up and offer it and see how many students would like to participate.

5. Pay Raises for July 2020

- As seen/heard in the video released by President Daniels this morning, the University is very concerned about the budgets and have put all pay raises on hold.
- There have been questions if we will resume normal operations in the fall. President Daniels has set up a special task force to look at what changes need to be made on campus. There will be no vaccine for COVID 19 for the fall and there is a danger that it could flare up at another time.
- There will be more to come to determine where we may be in August.
- There has also been some impact on purchasing. Any purchasing materials for instructional or research is okay and can continue as planned. There is also the option to ship materials to your home address. Shipping to your home address would require prior approval from Eckhard or Chad

6. Online Graduate Courses This Fall

- They will be a necessity for international graduate students, who are currently completing their degrees in their home country and who we are trying to recruit to start in August. These students will not be able to come in August due to the delay in their visa processing. The hope is that they will be able to come in January 2021 or the summer 2021 by the latest.
- We currently have 10 graduate courses to be taught online this fall. Do we want to increase this number? More courses could benefit ME and the College. International graduate students from other Schools could also participate. Eckhard is looking for volunteers to teach their already scheduled on-campus graduate courses also online this fall semester. These additional courses would not be offered thru edX or EPE. These courses would follow the same format that we are currently using this semester.

7. Open Discussion, Questions, and Comments

- Bumsoo: What about the SURF program? Will this go to online?

Eckhard: SURF sent out a survey yesterday asking if SURF advisors are able to move their SURF student to the virtual world. This is the direction they are moving towards. The student will not be able to start on campus in May, but maybe there is a possibility to move to campus later in during the summer so they could get access to the lab. It is probably a small or non-existing possibility.

- Xiulin: Some projects are already theoretical. These projects should continue as scheduled. Other projects could be converted to a theoretical project or a new theoretical project could be proposed instead of an originally proposed experimental project. I am not sure whether SURF is considering this.

Eckhard: I think they are. They were multiple options in the SURF survey from yesterday, including making modifications to the originally proposed project to become more of a theoretical project, or creating a new project, or discontinuing the project. It is okay to discuss these options with the students and if the student is okay with change of scope, propose the updated option to the SURF office.

- Dave: Do you have any idea when research labs will open back up?

Eckhard: It looks like the end of April/early May. The Federal Government suggested to extend the shelter-in-place until the end of April and Eckhard expects that Purdue will follow this guideline. Eckhard expects that we will stay the way we are now until the end of dead week and then hopefully open back up for research in early May. However, all of this is a guess as Eckhard has no indication.

- Pavlos: Regarding opening of the labs, if we open too early, we cannot assure a safe operation for everybody. At what point will the School or College make their own policy?

Eckhard: As the School of ME, we will have to follow Purdue policy. Eckhard has no issues if faculty running their own labs want to have a more stringent policy. However, we do not allow a more relaxed policy. We want to provide a safe, secure and healthy environment. At the School, we will follow College policy, and the College will follow University policy.

- Jim: Do you want to comment on the email you sent out on the students regarding the Qualtics survey for students, who are not participating in class?

Eckhard: This topic was addressed earlier in the forum (see above). The deadline to complete the survey is Monday.

- Greg: Regarding the survey, should everyone respond, or only those respond who have a student disengaged?

Eckhard: Only those instructors, who have one or more students not participating in class, should respond.

- Nina: What happens with undergraduate students, who are currently working with her graduate students on undergraduate research? Could they continue during the summer?

Eckhard: Yes, if you have a suitable project for them, they can certainly continue.

- George: Just a word of caution. Be sure to ask the student to check with ISS to make sure they are meeting the visa status.

8. Next ME Open Forum

- We will hold another open forum next week. To be held later in the week, most likely Friday, April 10. Formal announcement will be made on Tuesday.