

**ME Open Forum
WebEx Meeting
April 17, 2020**

Participating:

Eckhard Groll	Jim Jones	Pavlos Vlachos
Jackie Baumgardt	Jared Pike	Peter Meckl
Adrian Buganza Tepole	Jay Gore	Richard Buckius
Ajay Malshe	Jeremy Wampler	Sameer Naik
Bert Gramelsbacher	John Pearson	Satish Boregowda
Betsy Baxter	John Wheeler	Scott Meyer
Bob Lucht	Jong Hyun Choi	Sheri Tague
Dave Cappelleri	Julia King	Sheryl Willison
Davide Ziviani	Kay Evans	Song Zhang
Davin Piercey	Kejie Zhao	Steve Florence
Elizabeth Hess	Kristi Moses	Steve Kessler
Emma Cox	Kristin Deckard-Dawson	Steve Son
Fu Zhao	Marisol Koslowski	Tami Armstrong
Galen King	Martha Lucht	Thomas Siegmund
Greg Jensen	Marty Mylnarik	Tina Denson
Greg Shaver	Mike Logan	Tricia Hunt
Guillermo Paniagua	Mike Harrington (ECN)	Xianfan Xu
Hasti Veeraraghava	Neera Jain	Xiaomin Qian
Ivan Christov	Nina Mahmoudian	
Javan Greeson	Nicole Key	

1) Announcements – Eckhard:

- Distinguished Engineering Alumni (DEA) awardees were selected. A total of 11 DEAs were selected by the College. Three of the four DEA nominations submitted by ME were selected. Before Eckhard announces the names, he would like to reach out to them first, which he has not done yet.
- Eckhard is continuing on his path of hiring faculty
 - Laura Blumenschein has accepted our offer this week. She will start in July 2020. Eckhard thanked Greg Shaver and the search committee for leading the search effort. Greg thanked everyone who served on the search committee (David Cappelleri, Nina Mahmoudian, Peter Meckl, George Chiu, and Shirley Dyke).
 - Jim asked if he could assign Laura to teach in ME 375. Eckhard agreed.
- Martha Lucht is working with faculty on getting graduate students work locations entered in Work Location Tracker system. Eckhard took care of all the faculty.
- Return to work. When looking at the Purdue COVID-19 website, it shows April 20. Eckhard and Jackie reached out to the Dean's Office for clarification. We were advised to continue to operate "as is" until further notification. We expect that it will be extended until May 1 and return to the office on May 4.
- Renovation projects in Mechanical Engineering have been put on hold.
 - Was supposed to start next week. Not cancelled.
 - Final decision has not been made.
 - Eckhard is pushing hard to move this forward.
 - Related to the financial constraints with an effort to save money.

2) Undergraduate Program updates – Jim Jones:

- Jim is still working out the details of the Summer Undergraduate Programs.
 - Still in the uncertainty mode of what the enrollment will be.
 - Still not sure what the grading mode will be.
- Jim reminded everyone that we have gotten approval to change the 24-hour exam protocol issued by the Provost. Our alternate plan of having two exams at two different time slots is available for use.

3) Graduate Program updates – Nicole:

- The Graduate Office is in the process of finalizing research offers and fellowships. If faculty are still looking to recruit students for the fall and need guidance, please let Nicole know.
- The Graduate office reached out to Master's applicants about other options should they not get picked up for RAs.
- Have not started declining the PhD students yet. This will come in a few weeks.
- Nicole will send out an email to ask for summer TA nominations later today. She will make TA appointments shortly thereafter. In a few weeks, she will seek nominations for fall TA's.
- Eckhard stated that the Graduate student forum held Wednesday, April 15, at noon was very nicely handled by Nicole and the Graduate office. There are plans to continue Open Forums with the Graduate students.

4) ME Forum – Eckhard:

- The traditional ME Forum, which is organized every year by Pi Tau Sigma, has been scheduled for next Wednesday, April 22nd at 6:00 pm. It is scheduled as a virtually forum via Webex. Students have been asked to respond to the survey that was sent out earlier in the week.

5) Open Discussion – All:

- **Greg S.:** Has a student from India, who is to start in the fall but will not receive a visa in time. He probably can't afford to take courses online in the fall and will defer until spring. Has there been any updates if online courses will be the only option for such students in the fall?
Eckhard needs to follow up with the Graduate School on this. At the minimum we need to get to a situation where we either delay the tuition payment until the students shows up. If the student doesn't show up, they would get the bill. If they do show up, we will cover the tuition internally.
- **Dave C.:** With SURF program on hold, should he advise his SURF students to look into other special summer project programs instead?
Song: Will be attending a meeting this afternoon and will hopefully get a better idea of what options are available to the SURF students. Eckhard asked Song to send out an email to the ME faculty and staff afterwards on what he learns.
Marisol: Her understanding is that SURF is not on hold.
Eckhard: That is his understanding as well. The formality of the program has changed. Usually have seminars and activities for the students and that is gone. However, faculty can continue with their SURF students in a virtual process but it becomes a basic summer research project without having the SURF community. It is an option to cancel the SURF project and move the student to one of the special team summer projects offered by the School.
Thomas S.: The SURF students would need the group support over the summer provided by seminars and instruction. If this is cancelled, maybe we should ask if these can be done remotely. There doesn't seem to be a reason to cancel these activities. In addition, our special

summer programs should be plugged into these activities. Eckhard agrees, we should tie our program to the SURF program. We should be able to combine our efforts.

- **Song Z.:** 18 research projects have been submitted so far. Proposals are due next Monday, April 20. Students are excited about the projects.
Eckhard: There are currently 25 total projects total (18 research and 7 technical service project. This results in room for approximately 125 students.
- **Peter M.:** Has an international graduate student, who is about to finish his thesis. The student received his OPT and had interviews lined up that have gotten cancelled. The student suggested he finds an on-campus job for a few months so he is using the OPT. Does anyone have any prospects? If so, please email Peter, and include other thoughts or recommendations.
Eckhard wonders if there are any limited opportunities to allow the students to bridge over.
- **Peter M.:** As Eckhard mentioned earlier, ME renovation projects are on hold. No other updates on facilities at this time.
- **Kejie Z.:** He has couple of students who were to defend this summer. They will now defer. For students who are to graduate, they could delay their defense, or finish but hold off on their thesis deposit so that they retain their student status, or if already defended, we could hire them as a temporary researcher.
Eckhard: Make sure to stay within University regulations.
- **Eckhard:** Amy Marconnet and Neera Jain worked with Betsy Baxter to create a website calendar for students to post their defense dates.
Neera J.: The purpose is to make it public and to draw a larger audience. Would like to move to this culture of participation.
Eckhard supports this idea.
Martha Lucht said if the defense is held on campus, depending on the attendance number, it could be a problem with the room availability.
Ajay M.: This could also be useful resource for new faculty to learn about the research areas of other ME faculty. The faculty website information is sometimes not current.
- **Greg S.:** If there is some likelihood that we are continuing online instruction and combine it with some type of on-campus instruction in the fall, we need to start planning now.
Eckhard: Pavlos had brought this up last week and agreed to serve on an ME Task Force for planning ahead. Waiting on further information from the President's Office Task Force and then we need to put a plan in place. Eckhard will work on the putting the task force together.
Pavlos V.: We don't have good COVID-19 data at this time to move forward.
Greg S.: We need bandwidth, people to update curricula, and the time to prepare. Lead time will be needed.
Eckhard: The University Senate has proposed that classes may start after Labor Day in September. The faculty would still start at the scheduled time. This would allow them time to prepare if they need to move their classes online.

6) Closing – Eckhard:

- Mark Lundstrom has scheduled another College of Engineering Town Hall for next Wednesday, April 22, from 4:00-5:00 pm.
- Eckhard will hold another ME Open Forum next week (on Friday, April 24, at noon) to check in and give updates.