

**ME Open Forum
WebEx Meeting
April 24, 2020**

Participating:

Eckhard Groll	Greg Shaver	Neera Jain
Jackie Baumgardt	Guillermo Paniagua	Nicole Key
Adrian Buganza Tepole	Hasti Veeraraghava	Nina Mahmoudian
Ajay Malshe	Ivan Christov	Partha Mukherjee
Amy Marconnet	Jared Pike	Pavlos Vlachos
Anil Bajaj	Jim Jones	Peter Meckl
Arezo Ardekani	Jay Gore	Richard Buckius
Bert Gramelsbacher	John Pearson	Sameer Naik
Betsy Baxter	Jong Hyun Choi	Satish Boregowda
Bin Yao	Julia King	Shawn Whitaker
Bob Lucht	Kartik Ariyur	Sheri Tague
Bumsoo Han	Kay Evans	Sheryl Willison
Cathy Elwell	Kejie Zhao	Song Zhang
Dave Cappelleri	Klod Kokini	Steve Son
David Warsinger	Kristi Moses	Steve Wereley
Davide Ziviani	Kristin Deckard-Dawson	Tami Armstrong
Elizabeth Henning	Liang Pan	Terry Meyer
Emma Cox	Martha Lucht	Thomas Siegmund
Farshid Sadeghi	Marty Mylnarik	Tina Denson
Fu Zhao	Mike Linnes	Justin Weibel
Galen King	Mike Logan	Xiaomin Qian
Greg Jensen	Mukerrem Cakmak	Xiulin Ruan

1) Announcements / Eckhard

- The winners of the Outstanding Sophomore, Junior, and Senior students will be announced at 4:00 pm today via You Tube.
- Jared Pike is setting up something for our graduating students for graduation. This will be a virtual sendoff to our graduating Seniors and Graduate students. Each faculty member could provide a brief greeting to all their students. This would be nice way to replace the in-person celebration that we usually have. Jared will send out email to all faculty and staff with more details.

Questions/Comments:

- Jim asked if we should ask the students to send a picture of themselves in their gown or diploma.
- *Jared and Kristin Deckard-Dawson had discussed this, but they wanted to do this for the students and not have the student provide their own information. They will use the composite pictures for the video.*
- Ajay thanked Jared for this initiative and mentioned that international students will be able to participate via the internet.

2) Undergraduate Programs / Jim Jones

- Jim provided a summary of the Wednesday night ME Student Forum.
 - One issue that came up was our exception to the Provost 24-hour exam policy.
 - The Provost exam policy does allow faculty to limit the time of their exam. It doesn't mean the exam is open 24 hours. We are trying to control and limit academic dishonesty.
 - A silent majority of the students are afraid of backlash and so they didn't speak up. One email Jim received after the forum states that the students who cheat are getting an unfair advantage.
 - We looked at three points when coming up with the ME exam policy. Those are 1) student location in different time zone, 2) intermittent availability of computer access, and 3) intermittent internet access.
 - Eckhard suggested that Jim should send out the email to the undergraduate students in response to the ME Open Forum, explaining that we will stick with the current ME exam policy.

Questions/Comments:

- Jay: He got the feeling that students think there are two sides and that maybe the School is not trusting our students. We need to say we are on their side, and it is not the School vs. the Provost.
- Greg: We got great feedback from the Forum. Students are even more stressed out and maybe because it was on WebEx, some of the comments were very negative. He agrees with what Jay, Eckhard and Jim are saying. However, Jim sending out the email to the students could cause more backlash.
- *Jim stated that he wants to be there for the students and wants them to know we are being fair to all students. Cheating is occurring.*
- Amy: Her TA's have heard that some students are cheating by using WebEx or conference calls during the exams. Not sure how we can check this or stop it.
- *Jim thinks if they have to show some work under time limit, it is harder to conduct a group meeting via the web while taking an exam. Having to show work could minimize the issue.*
- Greg: One option is not to give a final exam. If our ability to conduct an assessment is broken, this could be an option.
- Neera: Could it be a group exam? Do it as a group, and get the grade as a group. They would have to record all of their online interactions and it would be part of the requirements.
- *Jim says this would make it difficult to assess what individual students have learned. Some students would argue unfairness if they get assigned to students that don't work as hard. Jim thinks we could use the software that video tapes the student taking the exam. No perfect solutions here.*
- Jay: Students wrote to him and stated that when professors are making open book exams, they are sometimes harder. We as faculty should think about not make these harder.
- *Eckhard asked Jim if they had any further comments on Chegg.com.*
- *Jim stated that Chuck sent his exam to them and they found no issues. He thinks this is because of the way that Chuck laid out his exam. Also, Chegg is still trying to do this on a manual basis. We will keep working on it and will probably try something with one of the*

final exams. Chegg wants to be seen as a positive resource for assisting students, but doesn't want to help students cheat.

- Ivan: For the ME309 exam, every student will get a different exam (completely randomized).
- Amy: Students are crowd sourcing their answers.
- Ajay: One method he has used for online exam is using open-ended project problems. This required critical thinking and cheating was not an issue. This is much more grading intensive. No one perfect answer.

3) Graduate Programs / Nicole Key

- Xiaomin forwarded an email to the faculty today regarding covering admission costs if they have an international student on an assistantship who is not able to obtain a visa for the US by August. This also includes students who have college and university fellowships. We can pay for their tuition while they are in their home country and taking online courses at Purdue, but we cannot pay them a salary. The tuition has to be paid from discretionary accounts.
- *Eckhard stated that any faculty who has such a student and would like to explore the possibility of paying their online tuition during the fall semester should send the name of the student to Nicole. He would like to understand how many students we have in this situation. If the number of students is reasonable, the School may help. The School may ask the faculty advisor to reimburse later. This is a good opportunity to recruit the students.*
- We do have some direction of the number of courses a student can take online for the degree completion.
- We are nearing the end of the recruitment season. Please let Nicole know if you would like to recruit a student and have not notified her yet.

Questions/Comments:

- Jay: Originally the PMP students had to reapply. Has this been changed?
- Nicole: Yes, this has been changed. Students who applied to the regular MS program, can be admitted to the PMP program without reapplying.

4) Open Conversation:

- Bob Lucht: Nicole, Jeff and Bob are on the Research Ramp-up Committee. How to ramp up research safely. First meeting will be in 5 minutes. Tim Pourpoint is Chair of the Committee.
- Jay Gore: Discovery Park Distinguished Lecture Series will start again. First one will be held next Thursday, April 30th, Dr. Asam. The lecture will be held via WebEx across Purdue.
- Miko Cakmak: Did you hear that Birck Nanotechnology are making face shields? Could be useful for what is needed in ME. Send Miko an email with estimate for consideration. Bob asked Miko to send him the details.
- *Eckhard agrees, this could be helpful. Bob Lucht asked Miko to send him an email.*
- Xiulin Ruan: The NSF Graduate Fellowships were recently selected. The Program is doing very well. Eckhard asked that Xiulin send Jackie the names of the ME awardees. The names cannot be officially announced yet. He will send Eckhard and Nicole the link.
- The link is: <https://www.research.gov/grfp/AwardeeList.do?method=sort&page=78>.