

**ME Open Forum  
WebEx Meeting  
June 26, 2020**

Participating:

Adrian Buganza Tepole	Guillermo Paniagua	Partha Mukherjee
Amy Marconnet	J. Stuart Bolton	Peter Meckl
Andres Arrieta	Jacqueline Baumgardt	Qingyan Chen
Anil Bajaj	Ivan Christov	Richard Buckius
Arezo Ardekani	James D. Jones	Robin Sipes
Benxin Wu	Jeremy Wampler	Sadegh Dabiri
Bert Gramelspacher	John Pearson	Salil Bapat
Betsy Baxter	Jong Hyun Choi	Sameer Naik
Bin Yao	Julia D. King	Satish Boregowda
Cindy Cory	Justin Weibel	Sheri Tague
Clairmont Clementson	Kay Shepherd	Song Zhang
David Warsinger	Kejie Zhao	Steve Florence
David Cappelleri	Klod Kokini	Steve Son
David Ziviani	Kristin E. Deckard Dawson	Steve Wereley
Davin Piercey	Liang Pan	Tami Armstrong
DJ Wilkinson	Marisol Koslowski	Terrence Meyer
Emma Cox	Marty Mlynarik	Thomas Siegmund
Eckhard Groll	Martha Lucht	Tina Denson
Euiwon Bae	Mike Logan	Todd Nelson
Farshid Sadeghi	Mike Sherwood	Veeraraghava Raju Hasti
Fu Zhao	Neera Jain	W. J. Greeson
Galen King	Nicole Key	Xiaomin Q.
Greg Shaver	Nina Mahmoudian	Xiulin Ruan

**1. Announcements – Eckhard**

- Recent Awards
  - Farshid Sadeghi has been elected an Honorary Member of ASME.
  - Arezo Ardekani has been selected to participate as an Innovative Early-Career Engineer in NAE's 2020 US Frontiers of Engineering Symposium.
- Retirement of Rick Duvall
  - Rick will retire on June 30, 2020.
  - Served 29 years at Purdue with 23 in Mechanical Engineering.
  - Peter Meckl: reminder to sign the ecard, and the Go Fund ME retirement gift fund.
- Michael Linnes has resigned his position in ME
  - Michael has been offered a new position in BME that is closer to his PhD research.
  - Hope to post and fill the position quickly.
- After many years of service as the advisor of OMEGA, Peter Meckl asked to step down in this role. Nicole has graciously and enthusiastically agreed to take over as the next advisor of OMEGA.
- Eckhard reminded all Academic Area Chairs to share the recently emailed ME academic and research areas document with their respective faculty.
  - We will collect one more round of feedback from the areas.
  - Return all feedback to Jackie at [jackieb@purdue.edu](mailto:jackieb@purdue.edu) by July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- Goal is to start the implementation phase of the document with the new academic areas with the August ME Faculty retreat.
- Black Lives Matter (<https://blacklivesmatter.com/>)
  - Eckhard has received feedback from the ME faculty and staff regarding the silence of the ME leadership.
  - Eckhard referenced the Purdue Statement and the memo from Mark Lundstrom.
  - The ME Leadership team strongly support both statements.
  - Looking at numbers of under representative minorities in the College of Engineering and in ME, they are dismal. This is a topic that has been discussed many times for many years, but have not really seen any impact. There are 1465 Undergrads starting in August 2020, of those, there are 15 African American students. The Dean is asking “What are you going to do about it”?
- Comments:
  - Anil: The University started a Diversity Transformation Award approximately 4 years ago. Under the ME leadership, Jim Jones, Patricia Davies, and Nicole Key received one of these awards.
    - Nicole: Had started working on the project a couple years ago for TecaId. They tried a lot of different things and didn’t see a lot of improvement. Need to keep chipping away at the problems. ME received bad rap in Freshman Engineering, seen as being too hard.
  - Eckhard: Need initiatives for both increasing the pool of students coming to Purdue Engineering and into the School of Mechanical Engineering, and then retaining them with proper mentorship during their studies. An idea is to have interested faculty visit Polytechnic High Schools in Indianapolis to talk about ME and Engineering and trying to recruit them through the College. This could be facilitated with David Bowker in the Office of Future Engineers office. We should also further increase our commitment to Purdue Pete’s Pals Program to include mentorship of African American students that want to come to Purdue Mechanical Engineering giving them the tools to be successful. Eckhard is looking for volunteers for help with both of these activities and is interested in feedback.

## 2. Research Ramp-Up – Peter Meckl

- Peter:
  - A large fraction of buildings used by ME researchers are now open for research, including ME, Herrick, Zucrow, Birck, Potter, Kepner, and FLEX. GRS is in the next block of buildings to be addressed. The goal was to have all buildings open for research by June 30.
  - If you need help filling out your research SOP, please go to the ME website for a sample: <https://engineering.purdue.edu/ME/AboutUs/Safety>
    - Turn-around between submitting the SOP and getting approval has been pretty quick, usually a day or two.
    - If you have an approved SOP, please send the SOP and confirmation of approval, along with the signature page, to Mike Logan, so he can grant access to the building for the students in your lab. For now, all buildings are still locked.
    - Several additional SOPs for ME have been approved, including the graduate offices and machine shop spaces. More details on how to gain access to use these spaces are (or will) come via email.

- COVID PPE is available, but some items may be in short supply, or there may be a delay of several days to get them.
- Mike:
  - When you get your approved SOP back, send Mike a copy of the signature page with all your students.
  - The ME building has not been unlocked so they are adding the access based on the SOP approvals.
  - Student Shop SOP was approved. Watch for emails from Mike on more details.
- Comments:
  - Eckhard: Has the PPE supply issue be addressed?
    - Peter: His understanding is that there are no shortages at this time.
    - Mike: Nothing in high supply, but believe we are okay.

### 3. Update on Undergraduate Program – Jim Jones

- Jim:
  - Fall 2020 Census Data – Wave 3 Data has been submitted (today). Jim thanked everyone for their timely input to this effort.
  - Wave 1 and 2 Validation – The Wave 1 and 2 Validation Data will be submitted immediately after the ME Open Forum. Very few changes were needed, but a few faculty have switched from F2F to Online.
  - Opt in to Fully Remote – Student who are unable to return to campus are required to opt in to fully remote by July 6<sup>th</sup>. These students will be placed in a separate online section for each class that the University has set up (for tracking purposes).
  - Batch – Once the Fall Class schedule is finalized, the Registrar’s Office plans to re-batch all students. The concern is that putting the remote students in the special online sections will create unbalanced class enrollments. Re-batching will resolve this issue, but may create a host of other problems. Time will tell if this is a good idea or not, but Jim is skeptical.
- Comments:
  - Sameer: Will times be kept the same, even for Online Classes?
    - Jim Jones will contact the Registrar’s Office to check on this for Sameer. They will release the classroom.
  - Dave: If we do online for the class, can we still do in-person exams?
    - Jim: Not sure, we will have to get the Universities philosophy on this. Believes there will be classrooms available in ME for doing so and the prospects are good. There should be evening and possible daytime hours.
  - Marisol: By the time we have finals, aren’t we supposed to be online?
    - Jim: Yes, all in person classes only go up until Thanksgiving and finals week will be fully online.
  - Jim: We will need to be flexible and go with the flow. Changes can be made later on. Jim cannot make any promises on flexibility that will be offered at this time.

### 4. Update on Graduate Program – Nicole Key

- Nicole:
  - Getting new information every day.

- Be sure to read the emails from Xiaomin with the most up to date information available.
- Xiaomin Qian:
  - Summary of the most recent email.
    - Current and incoming students can choose up to 4 courses online. Students need to opt in by July 15<sup>th</sup> on the Protect Purdue website. Incoming International Students on the special funding agreement also need to opt in by July 15<sup>th</sup>.
    - If the faculty member plans to pay the incoming international student tuition they need to complete the Tuition Remission form and send to Xiaomin by June 30<sup>th</sup>.
    - Students can change their minds by August 1<sup>st</sup>. If they register for 9 credit hours they can get reduced tuition rate. The reduced rate has been posted on the Protect Purdue website.
    - For the students who plan to be on campus, but cannot make it, it is possible that they will pay regular rates and take the courses remotely. On-campus students who are opting for the online-only fall semester will register for the special CRN that they will see after they opt in. Professional master's students are still being determined – we are awaiting further guidance from the College.
    - If a student is doing a research assistantship, they will not do this online. Online is only intended for those that will not be on campus.
    - If a student is doing an assistantship remotely, and wants to take online courses, they need to contact the course instructor. Fees would be the standard rate.
- Comments:
  - Greg: Is the latest information online?
    - Xiaomin: Yes, the University has sent out emails to current graduate students and ME has sent emails to incoming students.
  - Neera: What is being done for the current graduate students and domestic new students that have signed up for on campus, what if their Professor wants to teach the course online?
    - Xiaomin: There is no confirmation on that situation. If the Professor decides to teach the course online, the student could do a change of duty request.
  - Justin: Regarding the international students that cannot come and choose fall online classes, and they fill out the form by June 30<sup>th</sup>, do they still need to fill out the opt in form by July 15<sup>th</sup>.
    - Xiaomin: Yes, they still need to do the opt in form by July 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - Nina: What happens if a student arrives late?
    - Xiaomin: If they cannot get a visa by July 15<sup>th</sup>, it is unlikely they can come for the fall semester.

## 5. Open Discussion – All

- Comments:
  - Neera: It might be worthwhile to send something out to all students, faculty, and staff regarding the BLM statements mentioned earlier in this meeting. She feels it sends a strong message to the ME community.
  - Anil: Had a comment for Nicole: What is the status of TA's for the fall semester, for classes that are going to be online? And what are the timelines?

- Nicole: TA policy will be the same as last semester.  $\frac{1}{4}$  time TA for under 40 students and  $\frac{1}{2}$  time TA for over 40 students. Nicole will send the email by end of July and the faculty should email her their requests. Assignments will be made a week or two before classes.

**Next Open Forum will be Friday, July 10th, 2020**

\*Purdue Statement:



Events around our nation have reminded us yet again of the work that remains for all of us in creating a country where racism and bigotry are eliminated and where African American men and women, boys and girls, can live without fear. We are angered and saddened by the death of George Floyd, the victims who came before him, and those killed or otherwise harmed in the wake of Mr. Floyd's death. We hurt with those who are hurting and we pledge to continue to work toward a solution in which everyone is treated with civility and respect.

**BOILERMAKERS MUST PERSIST, NOW MORE THAN EVER, TO BUILD A BETTER WORLD TOGETHER.**

**#PURDUETOGETHER**

\*Message from Acting Dean of Engineering, Mark Lundstrom:

*"The death of George Floyd, the victims who came before him, and those killed or harmed in the wake of Mr. Floyd's death saddens and angers us. These recent events are a stark reminder of the work that remains for each of us in building a nation without racism and bigotry where every person can live without fear. I would like to share with you a powerful video from Purdue Engineering alum Markell Baldwin and ask that you listen to his words and make a commitment to fight injustice and prejudice. (<http://youtu.be/Epg1skfsShI>)*

*In the College of Engineering, we are proud that the National Society of Black Engineers was founded here at Purdue and helped to cultivate leaders who are nationally known. Our Minority Engineering Program, directed by Virginia Womak, stands ready to provide support services to Purdue students. Assistant Dean of Diversity and Engagement, Beth Holloway, is passionate about student success, and Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) can provide support to students during these trying times.*

*But what concrete steps can I take to effect change? The answer is that I don't know, but I would like to hear from you either by email or in one of the forums that we'll be holding over the next few weeks.*

*I hope you will all work with us to make Purdue Engineering an example of the better world that is possible."*