

ME Open Forum
WebEx Meeting
October 2, 2020, noon to 1:00 pm

Minutes

Attendance:

Jackie Baumgardt	Galen King	Laura	Todd Nelson
Eckhard Groll	Gordon Pennock	Blumenschein	Veeraghava Hasti
Adrian Buganza-	Greg Shaver	Liang Pan	Xianfan Xu
Tepole	Guillermo	Martha Lucht	Xiaomin Qian
Alex Chortos	Paniagua	Martin Jun	Bin Yao
Andres Arrieta	Stuart Bolton	Marty Mlynarik	George Chiu
Benxin Wu	Jim Jones	Monique McClain	Miko Cakmak
Beth Hess	Jim Braun	Nicole Key	Nina
Betsy Baxter	Jay Gore	Pavlos Vlachos	Mahmoudian
Bob Lucht	Julia King	Peter Meckl	Sheryl Willison
Bumsoo Han	Jun Chen	Rebecca Ciez	Cathy Elwell
Anil Bajaj	Justin Weibel	Richard Buckius	Dan Hireman
Greg Jensen	Kartik Ariyur	Sadegh Dabiri	Arezoo Ardekani
Chris Goldenstein	Kay Shepherd	Salil Bapat	Xiulin Ruan
David Warsinger	Kejie Zhao	Sameer Naik	Mike Logan
Dave Cappelleri	Kristi Moses	Sheri Tague	Steve Son
Davin Piercey	Kristin Deckard	Song Zhang	Amy Marconnet
Farshid Sadeghi	Dawson	Steve Kessler	
Fu Zhao	Kyle Rice	Thomas Siegmund	

1. Share a value, make a point – Eckhard

- Eckhard spoke about Ray Cohen, who recently passed away. Ray was an exceptional collaborator within and outside of Purdue.

2. Announcements – Eckhard

- Encourage everyone to donate anonymously when contributing to retirement gift accounts.
- Will be sending out a set of survey questions to ME faculty and staff for Covid-19 feedback.

3. ME Seminar Series for Academic Year – Eckhard

- The seminar series will be called the ME Distinguished Seminar Series.
- We will have 21 areas (7 academic and 14 research). Each area will be able to nominate one seminar speaker.

- We may add one extra seminar to make the total number 22 and divide them between the fall and spring semesters (11 each).
 - It does not have to be an even split; we could do 10 one semester and 12 the other.
- Areas should pick a month during the academic year where they envision to host the seminar.
 - We would like to keep the area seminars at roughly the same time every year but understand that it may not be exactly the same time.
 - Some areas already have named seminars, but we would like to eventually have all the area seminars named and to become ME Distinguished Seminars
 - Alan Hall – Design
 - Hawkins – Heat & Mass Transfer
 - Oldenburger – System Measurements and Control
 - We will have two Cummins seminars
 - a. Transportation
 - b. Manufacturing
 - Herrick – High-Performance Building
 - We may not be able to host all 21 seminars this academic year since we are already relatively far into the semester.
- This academic year we will be holding all seminars virtually.
 - This may allow us to schedule them a little differently.
 - The area will be responsible for how they schedule the seminars.
 - Eckhard ask that all seminar speakers have some interaction with faculty and graduate students in the area.
- Some areas mentioned that they would like to host more than one seminar.
 - ME will only facilitate and financially support one seminar per area
 - The areas are welcome to host additional seminar speakers. The areas will need to figure out who will finance and facilitate them

Comments:

Jay: Would potential candidates for faculty search seminars be forced into the whole picture?

Eckhard: *Seminars as part of faculty searches will not be a part of this seminar series.*

Depending on when we start searching, we typically have interviews beginning in late January into early February. If we get approved for this year, they will more than likely start in October with the beginning of the search and those interviews starting in April. We may want to keep the seminars in the spring lighter and more stretched out because we will always have seminars from the interview candidates.

- For the school facilitated seminars, Partha Mukherjee will be the seminar chair, and Betsy Baxter will be the point person for contact.
 - The admins will assist Betsy
- Betsy will work with Partha to have a conversation with the area chairs regarding their seminar nominees.

Comments:

Stuart: Normally, we would invite people from the US if it was a physical seminar, but there's no reason we cannot try to invite people from other countries with seminars being virtual.

Eckhard: *Excellent point. There has been a discussion about a potential speaker from the UK for Thermodynamics or High-Performance Building area.*

4. Establish a “Junior” MEAC – Eckhard

- A proposal came out of the MEAC meeting to create a Junior Advisory Council.
 - It would be alumni that have graduate from the ME program four to six years ago after getting established in industry and are on a career path.
 - Ideally, they would provide feedback on our curriculum and on how our program helped them get established in their various careers.
 - Provide suggestions on what may have been missing or on what we can improve or focus on
 - Strong support for this from the ME Leadership Team
 - The junior committee will be smaller than the Senior committee
 - Around ten members
 - Asking faculty for suggestions for members
 - A diverse group of people
 - Could also be graduate of the ME Graduate Program
 - Would be great if the member would have attended the Undergrad program as well
 - Past ME Ambassadors and ME student award winners would be great options

5. When a student is quarantined or tests positive for COVID-19 – Eckhard

- We need to contact PPHC (Protect Health Center) and let them do the contact tracing and informing the appropriate people. Our role is to assist them in letting them know if other students have used the same desk, lab bench, etc.
 - **Contact the PPHC:** Please contact the Protect Purdue Health Center 24/7 by calling 765-496-INFO (4636) or toll-free at 833-571-1043 and pressing “1”.
- What to do when a student comes out of quarantine.
 - We cannot ask if a student tested positive. They may volunteer the information.
 - We do have the right to ask for evidence of clearance (either negative test result or something from PPHC) before letting them back in the classroom/lab.
 - Either case, we can ask for disinfecting in the area

Comment:

Greg: We need to contact PPHC and let them do the contact tracing.

Thomas: Had a case in a class where a student volunteered the information that they had tested positive; however, PPHC did not contact him until much later. This should not happen. If

the student would not have told him, he would not have known for days that someone in class tested positive. We could have an infected student in the class, and you wouldn't even know it.

Eckhard: *Receives the notification for COVID-19 positive students. Not sure what happened in that case.*

Xianfan: Also had a student who tested positive and volunteered the information. He gathered information from the students. It was in the ME 315 lab, where there are three consecutive labs; therefore, six or seven students were using the station after the infected student. Called PPHC and asked if we needed to do contact tracing. Their answer was as long as we had the required PPE in place, the other students using the station would be considered low risk.

Pavlos: Is it the same procedure for graduate students, and how would they handle shared research space? Also had a student test positive and didn't get notified for four days.

Justin: In one case, the student volunteered the information, and I got notified the same day as the test results. Also had a situation where the student volunteered information, followed all the procedures but never heard anything from the PPHC.

Eckhard: Will bring this up in the Head's meeting with Purdue's administration.

Laura: Had a student contact us that their roommate tested positive. Do you know if the PPHC is generating the quarantine notifications as soon as the students are recommended to quarantine? Or are they waiting for test results? Because that student shouldn't come in based on their roommates' results.

Eckhard: *From personal experience, they are waiting for the test results.*

Greg: Offered the choice of online or in-person versions exams to students. We don't want students to feel like they will lose points for not coming to lecture. We have to rely on ourselves and not on Purdue.

Jim: Students have been good about letting us know when something is going on. Maybe take a moment to appreciate them.

6. Update on Graduate Program – Nicole

- For fall '21 applicants, we are waving the GRE requirements due to COVID-19.
 - Thanks for the feedback everyone provided
- Bipartisan legislation is working on a proposal that would limit F1 and J1 visas to four years.
 - Purdue is aware of this and trying to prevent it from happening
 - ISS is working on a petition
 - Other universities are doing the same
- Area exam grades are coming in.
- Xiaomin has been sending emails about spring '21 applicants.
 - If you would like to recruit a student, have any questions, or need a refresher on how to view the applications in Grad DB, let us know

7. Update on Facilities and Research Ramp-up – Peter and Mike

- The hiring committee made an offer for the Building Operations Manager position.
 - It has been accepted

- Start date October 19
- We have to have an SOP or a means for operations for all the spaces in the building.
 - Looked at three groups when putting this together
 - Common spaces
 - Research labs
 - Instructional space
 - Some spaces may have fallen through the cracks
 - Such as the engine test lab
 - If you use a room in the ME Building for teaching, doing research, or making use of shared space in the building, please check with Peter or Mike Logan to make sure there is an SOP on file for that area.
- Machine Shop Task Force.
 - Since Steve Florence retired, we are taking an opportunity to talk about how we can utilize the shop, in that role, in a better way
 - Invitations have been sent out to everyone on the list
 - Hoping to get a WebEx started in a week or so
- No official announcement about capital projects for fiscal year '22.
 - Please be thinking about it
 - Has to make sense in light of our plan to renovate the building thoroughly
 - If you are aware of anything that needs renovations now rather than waiting, let Peter know

8. Update on Undergraduate Program – Jim Jones

- The University is striving for the majority of the learning experiences of undergraduate students to have a residential learning element to them
 - Traditional face-to-face
 - Hybrid face-to-face (Hy-Flex)
 - a. Students may be rotating in and out
 - Hybrid
 - a. Part of the course is face-to-face, and parts like lectures or labs may be remote
- University is discouraging asynchronous only.
 - Even if it's remote, they want it to be synchronous
- Rotational Hybrid feedback found it was difficult for students and faculty when students are coming in and out of the class all the time.
 - University is trying to diminish this by better matching courses with the appropriately sized rooms
 - Students are struggling because they are missing the peer-to-peer interaction
- Attendance Policy.
 - Jenna working with the EPC at the University Senate

- There have been concerns from some faculty that have offered face-to-face class, but students are not showing up
 - Faculty are wondering why are they doing face-to-face instruction at all
 - Jenna will discuss this topic with department leaders in the future
- Faculty survey on Instructional Mode for Spring 2021.
 - Please complete the survey as soon as possible if you haven't already
 - This will help the university match up classrooms for the spring semester
- Impact X+ will be running again this fall if you want to participate in that.
- Students are frustrated that there are too many platforms.
 - Brightspace
 - Zoom, WebEx, etc.
 - Students would like one platform
 - There is currently no mandate for this
- Students feel that online courses are more work.
 - Maybe more of a perception than reality
 - Courses have not really changed from online to face-to-face
 - It may be the student's ability to stay organized
- Residential courses are likely not going to be entirely online.
- University is developing a modality dashboard.
 - This is another reason why we want to be prescriptive as to what we want
 - Will guide students on the nature of their instruction in various courses
- Online course sections we had this semester will have subparts.
 - They will separate the lectures from the labs
 - This should make the faculty's lives a little easier

Comment:

Laura: What is the suggestion for getting lecture materials to students who will need to be quarantined in the spring?

Jim: We need to try and record the content and make it available to students.

Laura: Is there any kind of support for getting the technology for other lectures that could be recorded live (better microphones, iPads, tablets).

Jim: We will look into this.

9. Open Discussion – All

Chat:

from George Chiu to everyone: 12:18 pm

Timing will be an issue for international speaker... It will work if we can change time...

from David J Cappelleri to everyone: 12:22 pm

Perhaps reach out to former ME Ambassadors for this?

from Justin A Weibel to everyone: 12:23 pm
Or past ME student award winners who will be 5 years out?

from Julia D King to everyone: 12:24 pm
We also have some ME alumni mentors in this category

from Thomas H Siegmund to everyone: 12:25 pm
I am still concerned with the covid communication. I had students in the class who told me that they tested positive. I was never contacted by PPHC.

from George Chiu to everyone: 12:34 pm
Research advisor should be part of the notification for graduate students with a research advisor.

from Guillermo Paniagua to everyone: 12:38 pm
In the interest of time, I report this in the chat. One of undergrad research assistant tested positive right after a trip. He quarantined, but Purdue never informed me through the entire process. All was shared privately. We should do better.

From Steve Son:

https://www.amazon.com/Blue-Yeti-USB-Microphone-Blackout/dp/B00N1YPXW2/ref=sr_1_1?crid=33OB4EHYEZTPS&dchild=1&keywords=yeti+blue+microphone&qid=1601665054&srefix=yeti+blue+%2Cindustrial%2C146&sr=8-1

Blue Yeti USB Mic for Recording & Streaming on PC and Mac, 3 Condenser Capsules, 4 Pickup Patterns, Headphone Output and Volume Control, Mic Gain Control, Adjustable Stand, Plug & Play – Blackout