

ME Open Forum
April 15th 2021
Time: 3:00p – 4:00p

Meeting Notes

Attendance was not recorded

1. Share a value, make a point – Eckhard

- Pandemic Teaching Award winners will be announced at a later date.
- Purdue Day of Giving is April 28th:
 - Activities planned throughout the day.
 - Students will be online to answer questions.
 - Anil Bajaj and Dan Hirleman will talk to alumni during the day.
 - If giving to ME via payroll deduct, to be counted this year and any future day of giving, it must be increased.

Questions/Comments

- *Scott*: If you are currently making a gift to Purdue through payroll deduction, you will need to increase your giving by at least \$1.00 to be counted as a new donor.

2. J-Term Proposal Discussion – Eckhard

- ME Senators are: Klod Kokini, Terry Meyer, and Thomas Siegmund.
- Provost Jay Akridge asked Eckhard for feedback from the School on the J-Term proposal. Eckhard provided the following feedback:
 - He is concerned with proposed reduction of the semester from 16 weeks to 15. Feels that this is equal to taking one credit hour away over the semester.
 - Difficulty in presenting content of 128 credit hours into 120 credit hours and in turn giving less content to the students.
 - Concerned that we would be telling our peer institutes that we can reduce education time but still deliver the same degree. Eckhard worries how this will affect our rankings among our peers.

Questions/Comments:

- *Chris*: Has never heard an explanation of why they need/want to reduce the semesters by a week each. Asked Eckhard if he had heard of a good explanation.
- *Eckhard*: Only explanation he has heard is that they want to keep the summer at 12 weeks due to concerns of internships and co-ops and the only way they can keep the 12 weeks of summer and add 4 weeks in January is by taking the week away from the semesters.
- *Carl*: When will there be a decision on the J-term? When will the Faculty Senate vote? Also asked Eckhard if he had talked to any other Heads about the concerns on the J-Term proposal.

- *Eckhard*: Does not know when they are expected to make the decision. The J-Term briefly came up in the last EAPC meeting. Other Heads stated that if this were put up for a vote, their faculty would vote “no”.
- *Kristin*: Has it been confirmed that if approved it won't happen until January 2023, not January 2022. Is that correct?
- *Klod*: Senate plans to vote Monday, April 28th. Purdue University Senate supports the efforts to develop and add a January term that maximizes the benefits and opportunities available to students, faculty and staff. Current proposal draft for implementation on the January term during the 2022/2023 winter session.
- *David J Cappelleri*: Is it just a majority senate vote needed to move forward?

Action item: Eckhard asked that Klod, Terry, or Thomas send an update to the faculty after the meeting next Monday (April 28th) to let them know what was decided.

3. ME Fall Operation Hours – Eckhard

- Eckhard’s view is the following:
 - There will be no expectations of hourly staff to work outside of regular business hours (continue 8 am -5 pm with 1-hour lunch break). Flexibility may be allowed.
 - No more than the contractually designated hours would be expected for exempt staff, unless desired by staff or needed by the school.

Questions/Comments:

- *Martha*: Does this have to be in the office, or can this be hybrid as well?
- *Eckhard*: Started this discussion at an ME Cabinet meeting. No definite answer for everyone. Eckhard wants to get feedback from the faculty. Looking at what makes sense for the operations of the School. There may be some business office staff needed on campus for things such as credit cards but not all of them need to be in the office all the time. Academic advisors will mostly be on campus. Research labs with activities going on need to have staff. May consider a hybrid mode where staff can work from home (this would depend on the individual situation).

4. Faculty Searches – Eckhard

- Looking at 5 new faculty members:
 - One has signed the offer letter. It is contingent on Associate Professor appointment with tenure.
 - One is for an Assistant Professor, currently working on additional details for her.
 - Other three are appointments with tenure.
 - Will hold an MEPC meeting on Tuesday May 11th to vote on the immediate tenure cases.
 - We are trying to get the letters of reference quickly.
 - The offer letters have not been signed off yet but are being worked on.
 - Will move on the tenure cases, get the documents ready so when they do sign off, we are ready to go.
 - Could be a potentially successful year for us.

Questions/Comments:

- *Klod:* All tenured faculty vote on an immediate tenure cases.

5. Agile Reform of Curriculum Proposals – Eckhard

- Have submitted four (4) proposals. The proposals were submitted April 15th to the Deans office.
- Eckhard thanked everyone who submitted a proposal for moving our undergraduate program and curriculum forward.

6. Update on the Building Renovation – Amy Marconnet

- Gathered feedback from faculty and staff after Townhall and passed it back to the architects.
- Ground floor still dedicated to undergraduate instruction with classrooms.
- Have a working layout to get the goals we wanted accomplished.
- 2nd floor will be the bulk of the administrative offices.
- Top floor: will be working on this floor to make it pods of people working together.
- Most everybody should be able to get some light from the plan into their offices.
- Reminder to submit a request for graduate student desk space for the coming fall on Qualtrics by April 23rd.

Questions/Comments:

- *Martha:* Asked Amy to email the drawings.

7. Update on Graduate Programs – Nicole Key and Xiaomin Qian

- April 15th is the deadline for students to accept offers.
- Distance program received 110 applications, have admitted 82.
- Master's program received 1382 applications, we are admitted 221 and 100 have accepted.
- Offered 84 students funding and 47 have accepted so far.
- Two fellowship allocations for the Andrews. One application for acceptance.
- Received one application for the Anwar fellowship and the student has accepted enrollment.
- Five applications for the doctoral fellowship and five students have accepted.
- Ross Fellowship: still waiting on one response.
- Apollo Fellowship: one student accepted, one declined.
- Three students accepted the NSF Fellowship.
- The acceptance rate is consistent with previous years.
- Xiaomin will email a report update on the graduate fellowship acceptance.

Questions/Comments:

- *Eckhard:* How successful are we with fellowships? Are we doing a little better from years past?
- *Xiaomin:* Thinks it is consistent with previous years. Acceptance rate is 50%.

- *Nicole*: Different this year with the departmental fellowships was a double offering to start so offers were in hand immediately instead of waiting for offers to be declined before offering again.
- *Ajay*: Compared to last couple of years, do you see an increase with URM students?
- *Nicole*: Plan to have the final numbers in a few more days.

8. Update on Undergraduate Programs – Jim Jones

- **Batch Registration:**
 - Things are proceeding.
 - The actual batch run won't happen until April 20th. They won't know how many students are in various sections until April 21st.
 - We put enough of our elective options out there so we are meeting the vast majority of that need.
- **T2M Program:**
 - This is where they move from First Year to Mechanical Engineering.
 - We have close to 600 students selecting ME at their first choice and close to another 300 selecting ME as their second.
 - It is possible to have 400 that meet the minimum standards we set for automatic admission into ME.
 - This shows a growth of approximately 100 students or more. We have between 80 to 90 that are graduating in the spring.
 - For teaching in the fall, we need to offer as many face-to-face options as possible to help get the students back to feeling a more normal situation.

Questions/Comments:

- *Martha*: Will students be required to be vaccinated to be on campus in the fall?
- *Jim*: Has not heard that they will need to be vaccinated. Only thing is they may need to be vaccinated if traveling abroad.
- *Eckhard*: His understanding is that the main administration is checking on the legalities of mandating vaccines.
- *Tami A.*: Will summer classes be mostly face-to-face since enrollment is smaller?
- *Jim*: Most summer classes are going to be face-to-face. There are some classes being held synchronously online.
- *Greg*: Shared the following website on Colleges that are mandating the vaccine.
<https://www.chronicle.com/blogs/live-coronavirus-updates/heres-a-list-of-colleges-that-will-require-students-to-be-vaccinated-against-covid-19>