



College of Engineering and Computing

Faculty Council Meeting

September 8, 2020

Committee members in attendance (Zoom): Jason Liu (SCIS), Joshua Hutcheson (BME), Trina Fletcher (SUCCEED), Vladimir Pozdin (ECE), Jessica Ramella-Roman (BME), Gang Quan (ECE), Mohamed El-Zomor (MSCIS), Ibrahim Tansel (MME), Cheng-Xian Lin (MME), Alexandra Strong (SUCCEED), Albert Gan (CEE), Xia Jin (CEE), Xuan Lv (MSCIS)

From Dean's Office: Dean John Volakis

Meeting beginning time- 3:35 PM by Joshua Hutcheson

1. Agenda approved by unanimous vote.

2. Vote to elect Faculty Council Officers for AY 2020-2021.

The Faculty Council nominated and elected Dr. Jessica Ramella-Roman to serve as Faculty Council Chair, Dr. Xia Jin to serve as Faculty Council Co-Chair, and Dr. Joshua Hutcheson to continue as Faculty Council Secretary.

3. Discussion of Faculty Council goals for AY 2020-2021.

The Faculty Council members discussed action items for the academic year. Specific items to address included Clarifying tenure/tenure-track vs non-tenure track faculty representation in FCOG and other committees and mechanisms to perform leadership (dean/chairs/directors) evaluations as tasked to the FCOG. These items will be addressed in future FCOG meetings, and FCOG members should discuss other specific goals/action items with their representative departments.

4. Dr. Volakis provided perspective from Dean's office on College goals and governance.

Dr. Volakis joined the meeting at 3:50pm. He mentioned that the College is progressing well with a 45% growth in research and improved enrollment and student retention, which was recently recognized by the Provost. The College aspires to a top 50 ranking. To achieve this goal, we need to focus on the 4 year graduate rate. The College is currently at a graduation rate of 36% with a near-term goal of 45%. The goal is to reach 65% by 2025. To help achieve these goals, the College is working on strategic plans to enhance student success metrics, especially in departments with large student populations. The College also seeks to improve research output. The College has grown by more than 200% in the last 20 years in number of faculty and research expenditures. The plans for a new building were approved, and the University is now seeking donor support (\$50 million) to begin construction. There are also concerted efforts on marketing and highlighting our current achievements, including the achievements of CEC alumni. After realignment, the directors are also charged with growing the research enterprise by working

across departments to encourage collaboration and target large funding initiatives. In terms of growth, the target is to hire approximately one dozen new faculty each year. The COVID-19 pandemic is not expected to significantly affect these plans as of now as the College has been able to absorb the budget cuts. The College is working with the University to monitor COVID-19 concerns, but the repopulation efforts have been effective so far. The Dean expects the FCOG to serve as a bridge between the faculty and the Dean's office and determine how we can best align our goals for success.

Meeting closed at 5:00 PM.