



College of Engineering and Computing

Faculty Council on Governance

The 3rd Faculty Council Meeting: from 3:00 to 4:30 pm, March 11, 2024

In Hybrid Mode: Room in EC 2661 as well as through ZOOM

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members:

In Attendance: Walter Tang (CEE), Vladimir Pozdin (ECE), Mohammad Rahman (ECE, zoom), Anamika Prasad (BME), Hamid Shahrestani (BME, zoom), Pezhman Mardanpour (MME), Wallied Orabi (MDCM), Bogdan Carbunar (KFSCIS), Janki Bhimani (KFSCIS), Bruk Berhane (SUCCEED)

Absent: Xia Jin (CEE), Stephen Secules (SUCCEED), Norman Munroe (MME), Lufan Wang (MDCM)

Guests: Vice Dean Mark Weiss, Dr. Olekssi Shandra (BME, IT Committee), Alicia Boymelgreen (MME Library committee), Trina Fletcher (SUCCEED, Library committee), Anna Bernardo-Bricker (CEE, Library committee)

1. Dr. Walter Tang called the meeting to order at 3:00 PM.
2. **Approval of Last Faculty Meeting Minutes (February 22, 2024).**

The meeting minutes were approved with no change.

3. **Updates from the Dean's Office by Vice Dean Mark Weiss**

Interim Associate Dean Dr. Mark Weiss participated in the meeting to provide updates regarding the tenure promotion guidelines. He highlighted the imminent arrival of six candidates and stressed the necessity of promptly finalizing the guidelines, indicating that the upcoming influx of candidates next year underscored the urgency. Dr. Weiss also drew attention to the COACH survey, underscoring its importance and urging completion.

Furthermore, Dr. Weiss clarified that the proposal aimed not to establish new standards but to formalize existing practices, ensuring a fair and comprehensive evaluation process. This clarification aimed to prevent issues such as the use of non-standard sources of recommendation letters, such as those from co-authors. During the meeting, Dr. Weiss inquired about the upcoming college-wide Faculty Council Meeting. Additionally, he encouraged faculty members to actively participate in the College commencement ceremony to show support for our graduating students. Key discussions with council members included:

- 1) The importance of adopting a standardized approach to the Tenure Promotion Committee's policies, with suggestions to vote on the proposed document.
- 2) Dr. Weiss addressed inquiries regarding available resources for candidates assembling tenure documents, mentioning his availability for meetings and university-provided training sessions.
- 3) Various concerns were raised, including the requirement for additional PDF documents alongside Pather180, the expectation for candidates to possess a Google Scholar profile, and the rationale behind accepting recommendation letters only from full Professors.
- 4) Discussions ensued regarding the quality and expectations of recommendation letters appropriate for an R1 institution's tenure and promotion, with comparisons to similar universities for consistency across departments.
- 5) Considerations were made for devising a fair methodology to account for co-authorships and collaborations in grant applications, suggesting departmental involvement in determining appropriate acknowledgment.
- 6) It was decided to conduct a vote after allowing all members ample time to disseminate the document within their respective departments.

4. Faculty College-wide Annual Faculty Council Meeting

Dr. Tang proposed April 10th as the date for the annual Faculty Council Meeting, which will encompass faculty from across the college. During the meeting, the agenda was reviewed, and it was suggested that each subcommittee present their progress reports. Recognizing the need for committees to adapt to a rapidly changing landscape, discussions centered around enhancing the impact of committees by focusing on the college's vision, mission, Key Performance Indicators, and action items. It was unanimously agreed to mostly follow last year's meeting format to avoid delays in post-award setup.

Several new issues were raised and discussed:

- 1) The need to address international student hiring and national security concerns, to be coordinated with the Office of Research and Economic Development (ORED).
- 2) Exploring possibilities for establishing a digital engineering library for student use, to be taken up by the library committee.
- 3) Reviewing the current 120-credit curriculum, with a focus on integrating AI across the college curriculum, to be tackled by the curriculum committee.
- 4) Assessing the readiness of students for AI integration and examining ongoing institutional efforts related to digital resources, to be handled by the IT committee.
- 5) Maintaining advocacy for the College of Engineering priorities within the university's strategic plan.

These discussions aim to ensure that the Faculty Council Meeting serves as a platform for addressing pertinent issues and advancing the college's goals effectively.

5. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.