

Faculty of the Grove School of Engineering
City College of New York, CUNY
Minutes of the Meeting of September 14, 2017

Attendance:

Biomedical Engineering: Luis Cardosolanda, Alessandra Carriero, Susannah Fritton, Bingmei Fu, Jeff Garanich, Steven Nicoll, Mitchell Schaffler, Maribel Vazquez, Sihong Wang.

Chemical Engineering: Elizabeth Biddinger, Marco Castaldi, Xi Cheng, Malcolm Gilchrist, Charles Maldarelli, Robert Messinger, Raymond Tu.

Civil Engineering: Mahdieh Allahviranloo, Alison Conway, Julio Davalos, Naresh Devineni, Vasil Diyamandoglu, Balazs Fekete, John Fillos, Michel Ghosn, Reza Khanbilvardi, Robert Paaswell, Ann Wittig,

Computer Science: Peter Brass, Ronak Etemadpour, Irina Gladkova, Michael Grossberg, Akira Kawaguchi, Zheng Peng.

Electrical Engineering: Mohamed Ali, Roger Dorsinville, Barry Gross, Ho Ping, Ahmed Mohamed, Kenneth Sobel.

Mechanical Engineering: Gary Benenson, Feridun Delale, Jing Fan, Peter Ganatos, Jorge Gonzalez-Cruz, Taehun Lee, Jacqueline Li, Benjamin Liaw, Ali Sadegh, Hao Su, Charles Watkins, Hongui Yu

Staff/Guests: Dean Gilda Barabino, Ardie Walser, Rose Wesson, Annita Alting, Yvette Burkeforehand, Val Rutstein, Belkys Bodre, Sam Fenster, Maria Velazquez, Vincent Boudreau, Marry Driscoll, Yulisa Aquino. Michael Bobker.

The meeting was convened by Dean Barabino at 12:32 PM

1. **Agenda:** Prof. Messinger proposed that the agenda be modified to postpone Item #7 the Graduate Curriculum proposal from Ch. E., to a future meeting, pending further research on this item. The motion was passed unanimously.
2. **Minutes:** Prof. Manassah proposed three corrections to the minutes:
 - a) "Prof. Manassah objected to a vote on this matter by the faculty, as not a proper subject for a Faculty decision" should be replaced by "Prof. Manassah objected to a vote on these resolutions as being out of order".
 - b) The second and third items were related, but did not contain specific language. Addressing them would have required the following changes in the minutes: (i) Add "Prof. Manassah's motion for a point of order was sustained by the Chair. The resolution from ChE was therefore ruled out of order." (ii) Delete: "... but postpone the BME and ChE course credit reductions to a later time."

These were voted on separately. Item a) was passed unanimously, but item b) was defeated. Revised minutes with correction a) are attached.

3. Communications from the Provost: Acting Provost Driscoll commended the Grove School on its recent accreditation by ABET, and underscored the importance of GSoE to the College. She then reported on recent discussions at CUNY Central regarding the new Excelsior Scholarships. There is a concern that many students will not be eligible for these awards due to the time required to graduate. Obstacles include programs requiring more than 120 credits; the availability of classroom seats in engineering, math and science; the need many students have for employment while attending the College; the importance of internships in preparing for future careers. All of these issues can have the effect of retarding “academic momentum” towards a degree. In spite of these issues, some students do complete their degrees in four years, particularly those in the Macauley Honors Program, half of whom are in the GSoE. Within the College as a whole, 400 out of 2300 entering students meet the initial requirements for an Excelsior Scholarship.

4. Communications from the Dean:

- a) New faculty: Dean Barabino asked their respective department chairs to introduce the following new faculty: Dr. Alessandra Carriero, BME; Dr. Ronak Etemadpour, CSc; Dr. Samah Saeed, EE; and Dr. Hao Su, ME.
- b) Accreditation: The Dean announced that the following undergraduate programs have recently been accredited by ABET: BME, ChE, CE, CpE, ESE, EE and ME. CSc had already been accredited by the Computing Accreditation Commission (CAC). The major concerns are institutional support, and number of faculty. The Dean is working with the provost’s Office to address both issues. Special thanks were given to everyone who participated in the accreditation process, especially the departmental ABET coordinators, and Associate Deans Wesson and Walser.
- c) Research: The Dean listed some recently awarded research grants, and commended faculty for continuing to maintain their programs of research, external funding and publications even in the current environment of austerity.
- d) Faculty Awards: Michel Ghosn (CE) has won a 2017 Research Award from the International Association on Structural Safety and Reliability. Jeff Morris (ChE) has been awarded a 2017 Shell Thomas Baron Award in Fluid Particle Systems by the AIChE Particle Technology Forum.
- e) The Dean is co-teaching a course called Rethinking Higher Education in the Knowledge Economy with Ann Kirschner of the CUNY Graduate Center.
- f) Enrollment: Undergraduate enrollment has increased 41% since 2012; overall, the GSoE enrollment at all levels has increased by 28% over the same period.
- g) Budget: The projected tax levy budget for 2017-18 is \$22.8 M. A hiring pause remains in effect, and OTPS allocations will be released shortly.
- h) Administrative reorganization: The Dean has reorganized her staff to eliminate Deputy positions and place all staff members under one of the two Associate Deans. The only exception is Annette Pineda, who will work directly with the City College Development Office.

5. Communications from the President:

- a) Budget: The projected deficit for 2017-18 is \$10 M. Two positive developments are that (i) the CUNY Central Office has finally acknowledged the deficit and is willing to work on a plan to address it; and (ii) there is now serious examination by CUNY of the cost of educating students.
- b) Enrollment: The plan for increasing our budget cannot simply consist of increasing enrollment, which has increased from about 12K to 16K without any consideration of what we can sustain.
- c) Planning: Acting President Boudreau has asked for each Department to propose class schedules for the next four semesters, based on the number of available seats. These will be subject to scrutiny by the Administration. Faculty preferences will need to be balanced against the needs of the College.
- d) Excellence Fee: The Chancellor will ask the State for additional funding for Architecture and Engineering, but these will be contingent on a greater contribution by the students. There are precedents for higher fees for students in professional programs at the Medical School, the CCNY Economics Department, Baruch College and SUNY engineering schools.

The ensuing discussion focused on enrollment and the Excellence fee. Prof. Liaw pointed out that our programs should not be described as “four-year”, because it is nearly impossible to complete them in that time. Prof. Schaffler asked whether the Excellence Fee would be used to support GSoE. The Acting President responded that about \$2 M of \$3 M would come back to GSoE, while the remainder would be used to support service courses. He also indicated that students will have to be part of these discussions.

6. Election of Executive Committee:

A motion was approved unanimously to postpone this item to the next meeting.

7. Resolution on the Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Budget Subcommittee:

The resolution was passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned by the Dean at 1:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Benenson, Secretary