

College of Engineering Faculty Retreat

Minutes of the Meeting of

August 19, 2014

Members Present: Akbari Hamed, Alimohammad, Alves, Ashrafi, Battiato, Beyene, Bhattacharjee, Dowell, Engin, Garcia, Garoma, J. Harris, Huang, Jacobs, Johnston, Kassenge, Katz, Kennedy, Kinoshita, Kline, Kumar, G. Lee, L. Lee, Liu, May-Newman, Mehrabadi, Miller, Mladenov, Mitropoulos, Moon, Morsi, Narang, Naseradinmousavi, Nosseir, Ozturk, Plotkin, Sarkar, Sharma, Supernak, Szeto, Tummala, Valdes, Venkataraman

Members Absent: Bayasi, Betancourt, Buyuksonmez, Demasi, German, Gupta, f. Harris, Kolen, Marino, Nagaraj, Olevsky, Ponce, Sabzehgar, Seshagiri, Walsh, Westermo

Guests: Pierucci, Cawley, Marotta, Weston, Wong-Welch, Espinoza, Enwemeka, LaMaster, Schulz, Laura Shinn

The meeting was called to order at 10:32am.

1. Dean Mehrabadi welcomed all the faculty to the new academic year 2014-2015. Seven new faculty were introduced to the college: Dr. Ilenia Battiato, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering; Dr. Kaveh Akbari Hamed, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering and member of the NSF Engineering Research Center for Sensorimotor Neural Engineering; Dr. Ke Huang, Assistant Professor of Electrical & Computer Engineering; Dr. Alicia M. Kinoshita, Assistant Professor of Civil, Environmental and Construction Engineering; Dr. Xiaofeng Liu, Assistant Professor of Aerospace Engineering; Dr. Natalie Mladenov, Assistant Professor of Civil, Environmental and Construction Engineering; and Dr. Peiman N. Mousavi, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering. Welcome all new faculty to the College of Engineering!
2. Ms. Colleen Marotta provided a summary of the President's Leadership Fund opportunity for faculty, with funding up to \$12K, as well as the Faculty and Staff Awards for Excellence, with funding of \$5K. The deadline is October 17, 2014 to apply and information was distributed to the faculty.
3. Wil Weston from the Library introduced Ms. Jenny Wong-Welch, the new STEM Librarian. Jenny oversees the engineering and mathematics programs at SDSU and provides support for classroom resources, faculty data mining for teaching and research as well as assists with publication needs.
4. The minutes form 5/1/2014 were discussed. Drs. Ashrafi Ashkan and Satchi Venkataraman were also present at the meeting, but were not listed. A motion was made by Dr. G. Lee and second by Dr. L. Tummala to accept the minutes of the 5/1/2014 faculty meeting with the two corrections; the motion passed unanimously.
5. The Dean made some announcements: (i) Dr. Ashrafi was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure and Drs. Jacobs, Sharma and Venkataraman were promoted to Full Professors; (ii) Dr. Yusuf Ozturk is the 2014-2015 recipient of the Alumni Association Outstanding Faculty Award; (iii) enrollments are increasing at a rapid rate with FTES currently at 1578 (which is 10% over the target of 1428); and (iv) research continues to grow.
6. Faculty Committees: (i) Andy Szeto was unanimously elected to be the Faculty Secretary (for Fall 2014 while Luciano Demasi is on sabbatical leave); (ii) Khaled Morsi was elected hair for the Personnel, Tenure and Promotion Committee; **(iii) all chairs who served in the previous year should initiate the first committee meeting for this new year and the Dean will meet with each committee to set the agenda (Katz: Academic Policy and Planning, Katz: Intramural Grants, Narang: Honors and**

Awards, Ozturk: Curriculum). Ozturk: Constitution and Bylaws (Ozturk will continue to serve as Faculty Parliamentarian)

7. Other announcements by the Dean: (i) Budget: Last year, the college had over \$500K budget deficit. With the new administration, a new financial model is in place and the \$500K deficit was cleared. The university will continue to emphasize the need for philanthropic and research-related activities to enhance the budget needs; (ii) Joint Doctoral Program: the program is in financial trouble and it is important that faculty support the program by providing support funds for their JDP students; (iii) several faculty and department chair searches are underway (two faculty searches and three department chair searches). Faculty search committees need to begin the hiring process. For the department chair searches, the Dean will choose the committee members in consultation with the faculty; (iv) The Associate Dean search is continuing and the Dean will distribute the job description to the faculty. Ms. Theresa Garcia is the new Assistant Dean for Student Affairs. The search for the MESA Director and an ASC I position will commence shortly; (v) Dr. Chris Paolini is the IT lead for the College; (vi) UGP funds need to be expended within 18 months; (vii) ABET Self-study Reports are due in the Spring 2015 semester; and (viii) The referendum for the Student Success Fees passed starting with a \$50/semester fee with gradual increase to \$200/semester. The increase will be distributed as follows: (a) 90% will go towards new faculty hires, in support of classroom teaching and (b) 10% will go to special projects, through a proposal process, in support of academics.
8. The New Engineering and Interdisciplinary Sciences Building: Provost Chukuka S. Enwemeka, Dr. Kathy LaMaster, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Mr. Robert Schulz, Associate Vice President for Real Estate, Planning & Development and University Architect and Ms. Laura Shinn, Facilities Planning, Design and Construction presented an overview of the new building, to be completed in 2018. The Provost described the university priorities of student success, research, diversity, international experience and community involvement (including industry partnerships). In keeping with these university priorities, acknowledging the importance of engineering, the Provost presented a preliminary plan for the new building: the IT/Engineering Lab building, currently housing 30K square feet, will be demolished and replaced with a new building that will provide between 45K – 60K square feet, including common areas. Further, the existing Engineering Building will be renovated. Town meetings will be organized to discuss the plans. Mr. Schulz followed with additional discussions about the building. There are two floors in the Adams-Humanities Building that faculty could use as temporary lab and office space during the construction/renovation of the new building. The estimated cost for the new building and renovation of the existing building will be about \$90M. More information will follow.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20pm