



SAN DIEGO STATE  
UNIVERSITY

College of Engineering

## COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING FACULTY MEETING

### Minutes of

Tuesday, May 3, 2016 – 11:00am-12:00pm

Bioscience Center – Gold Auditorium

**Faculty Members Present:** J. Abraham, A. Alimohammad, T. Alves, A. Ashrafi, T. Garcia, S. Ghanipoor Machiani, M. Gupta, f. harris, K. Huang, T. Johnston, P. Katira, J. Katz, A. Kinoshita, X. Liu, K. May-Newman, F. Miller, K. Morsi, B. Narang, E. Olevsky, A. Plotkin, R. Sabzehgar, M. Sarkar, S. Sharma, J. Supernak, A. Szeto, R.L. Tummala, , T. Yang, G. Youssef

**Members Absent:** K. Akbari Hamed, Z. Bayasi, R. Betancourt, A. Beyene, , L. Demasi, R. Dowell, A. Engin, T. Garoma, R. German, G. Jacobs, S. Kassegne, R. Kline, P. Kolen, S. Kumar, L. Lee, T. Mitropoulos, K. Moon, S. Nagaraj, P. Naseradinmousavi, N. Nosseir, Y. Ozturk, V. Ponce, S. Seshagiri,

**Members Excused:** I. Battiato (personal), S. Bhattacharjee (personal), F. Buyuksonmez (candidate interview), J. Kennedy (teaching), C. Mi (conference), N. Mladenov (teaching), J. Valdes (candidate interview), S. Venkataraman, K. Walsh (Georgia)

**Staff Members Present:** M. Morihiro, C. Paolini

Dean Mehrabadi called the meeting to order at 11:06am.

### 1) Approval of the Minutes from the College of Engineering Faculty Meeting on 2/9/2016

Postpone this item, as not enough faculty are present for a quorum.

### 2) Announcements and Updates

See handout for a list of topics and some further details:

- a. The Dean reports that the increase in minimum GPA to 2.7 was just approved by the Chancellor. A study showed that the earlier increase from 2.1 to 2.5 did not have a significant effect on Engineering enrollment. Furthermore, there was a gradual increase in students GPA. The eventual goal is 2.9, with the 2.7 being a trial period. The policy is officially retroactive, but we will be lenient of those already in the pipeline for the next couple of years.
- b. Design Day in Montezuma Hall is May 4<sup>th</sup> from 1:30pm-3:30pm and Senior Banquet is taking place on May 5<sup>th</sup> 5:30 to 7:30 PM at the PPG Alumni Center.
- c. May 14<sup>th</sup> is Commencement. Please come and line up by 4:45PM.
- d. The Fall 2016 Retreat is 8/22/2016 from 9 AM to 1 PM, with a reception at Gordon Biersch from 5:30 PM to 7:30 that evening.
- e. There has been a misunderstanding about the role of the new EIS building. The previous buildings on the site contained useful teaching and research laboratories but the one-story structures were out of date and not functional. Space was shared with Geology and others. The University decided to invest \$30M of revenue generated by the College of Extended Studies as seed money to attract \$30M from CSU and \$30M from private donors to build the EIS Complex. A committee of faculty and students was formed to provide input. The goal for Engineering in the negotiations was to try to recover the space lost in the EL building. The negotiation went very well for Engineering, as an example, we used to have 5,500 ft<sup>2</sup> for teaching, but in the EIS we will have 11,000 ft<sup>2</sup>. However, this is not our goal for a *new* Engineering Building. We are still pursuing the

new Engineering building. The Quonset hut area will be transformed into a parking lot until we get money for our new building. The current operations in the Quonset huts will be moved to Parking Lot 16 (formerly Lot A). The next steps will be to raise money for renovating our current building, and convince the University administration to help us raise funds for the new Engineering building. Question from Khaled Morsi: "What will the CSU say if we ask for money for a new building?" Dean: "Currently the state has a ban on capital investment. However, I think that we have a better chance for matching funds if we raise enough money. What is certain is that the EIS will *not* accommodate our enrollment growth."

### **3) FTES Growth**

In 2009 we had 1120 FTES, in 2015 that number ballooned to 1762. Enrollment went from 2012 undergraduates and 342 graduate students to 3420 undergraduates and 458 graduate students. The number of students obviously went way up, but the number of faculty actually went down. We have only a slightly higher FTEF than before the budget crisis. The faculty to student ratio was 17 in 2007, and is now 27. While we have lately been hiring a lot of new faculty, this has given rise to a new problem: space. The new faculty typically need a lab, while the retiring faculty did not always have one. Thus, we are converting class rooms into labs. Question from John Abraham: "Does the budget reflect enrollment?" Dean: "This is very murky and at this time I cannot explain the exact correlation between the change in our budget with enrollment. We will be working on this and will have some clarity on this issue soon. The University does not hire faculty based on FTES, but on areas of excellence. It is a problem, since we do not replace faculty that we need to teach certain courses."

- a. A new JDP with UCI through the Computational Sciences Center (CSC) is under negotiation. An issue with participation of Engineering faculty in CSC is that doctoral students in this program are credited to Sciences but not Engineering.

### **4) Faculty and Staff Searches**

- a. The new CCEE professor Matthew Verbyla will start in the fall of 2017 (yes, that year is correct). The total cost of renovation for his lab is \$600K.
- b. Dr. Ken Walsh is giving up his endowed chair, so that position is now open.
- c. The new professor Joaquin Camacho will occupy E-425. About \$400K will be spent on his lab.
- d. Total for the CoE \$ 1.1M on renovations. About \$400K from our Equipment Funds, and the balance from the University. Start-up costs in the Fall of 2016 to be covered by the University, so that will free up some money.
- e. The Associate Dean search was not successful. The job is too much for one person with limited support staff, so we need to split up the job duties. The CoE has grown and we need to have two (or more) people. However, we cannot get approval for two external candidates. So, we will pull two faculty out of the CoE for these jobs. Then, we hope to get one new faculty line.

### **5) Strategic Plan**

To date, there has been a 35% increase in research awards between 2015 and 2016. We are #3 at SDSU and gaining on the other Colleges. Question from John Abraham: "Is the increased funding broad based?" Dean: "Not entirely. Some faculty are bringing in more money than others. However, we have real improvements overall."

### **6) No time to cover other slides, please review on your own.**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00PM. No voting, as not enough faculty present for a quorum.

Minutes submitted by Dr. Fletcher Miller on August 10, 2016