

Meeting Minutes
Executive Committee of the AFSE
May 7, 2021
12 NOON via Zoom

Present: Samantha Brunhaver, Christopher Buneo, Marcus Herrmann (chair), Dianne Hansford (secretary), Rosa Krajmalnik-Brown, Anthony Lamanna, Doug Montgomery, George Pan, Rod Roscoe, Andreas Spanias, Sefaattin Tongay
Absent: Jitendran Muthuswamy, Yalin Wang

Approval of the April 2, 2021 EC Minutes.

Minutes unanimously approved.

Impact of COVID 19.

George: One of his graders returned to India and tested positive for COVID. Some students have to return to India for visa renewal. Following the ASU protocol, Rosa had her student take COVID test upon return from India and quarantine. Andreas: he is aware of a student who is not allowed to return to US until classes starts.

Are there requirements for students to be vaccinated for fall semester? Because vaccines are not fully approved by FDA, it is not clear if they can be required. Universities that are requiring vaccination are banking on the Pfizer vaccine being approved.

Sef shared the Stanford policy with the EC.

<https://healthalerts.stanford.edu/covid-19/prevention-care/vaccine-information/>

Sef: Materials Science Department surveys show that 30% universities are requiring vaccines for the Fall semester. Carnegie Mellon students will be given choice to attend class for letter grade or attend remotely with pass/fail option.

Sef: His children are not vaccinated, so he has a concern about exposure to unvaccinated students. Some faculty in his department, particularly older faculty, have expressed a similar concern. He suggested a vaccination requirement for all students, staff, and instructors. Furthermore, any class above 100 should be ASU sync and class below 100 should be all in person.

Rosa: ASU is offering incoming freshman appointments for vaccination.

Committee is still unsure about how classes will be conducted in the fall. Consensus is that students should be vaccinated. The EC would like to send question to Kyle via email on the topics of social distancing, masks, vaccine requirement, Sync mode/class size.

ACTION ITEMS

Marcus will email questions to Kyle

Dean's Distinguished Lecture.

Ellen Stofan talk was relatively well attended with approximately 90 people. Faculty meeting afterwards was not so well attended. The low attendance could be due to it being finals week.

How can we continue collaboration with invited speaker? Because there was minimal time with the speaker and the Zoom format, it was not easy to establish contact. Dr. Stofan mentioned contacts outside of engineering at ASU. We could contact these researchers to initiate collaboration.

The EC needs to begin thinking about next year's speaker. Andreas recommended Robert Calderbank, who was suggested by Lalitha Sankar. <https://ece.duke.edu/faculty/robert-calderbank>
Sef suggested Paul Weiss from UCLA. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Weiss_\(nanoscientist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Weiss_(nanoscientist))
Our top choice this semester, Sangeeta N. Bhatia, declined because she was too busy, but she indicated she would be happy to deliver the lecture in the future. So, she should be considered again.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sangeeta_N._Bhatia

Should the date for the lecture be early February 2022 or should we move it to late Fall?

ACTION ITEMS

Review suggested speakers (Calderbank, Weiss, Bhatia)
Determine date for lecture

Other Items.

Who will be continuing to serve on this committee in the Fall? Bylaws state that a term is three years and a member may serve two consecutive terms. After serving two terms, the member may rejoin after one year. Is the membership tenure documented somewhere?

ACTION ITEMS

Dianne will ask Kelli if a membership document exists.

POST-MEETING UPDATES

Pitu Mirchandani will be replacing Doug in the Fall
AFSE meeting is scheduled for 19 November 2021 10 – 11 am. Location TBD.

Next Meeting

August 6, 2021
Noon, Location TBD