

Meeting Minutes
Executive Committee of the AFSE
September 3, 2021
12 NOON via Zoom

Present: Samantha Brunhaver, Christopher Buneo, Marcus Herrmann (chair), Dianne Hansford (secretary), Rosa Krajmalnik-Brown, Pitu Mirchandani, Jitendran Muthuswamy, George Pan, Rod Roscoe, Sefaattin Tongay, Yalin Wang, Yong-Hang Zhang

Absent: Anthony Lamanna

Guests: Dean Kyle Squires, Vice Dean Marco Saraniti

Election of Chair

Marcus Hermann was proposed as chair and elected unanimously

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from May 7, 2021 were unanimously approved.

Impact of COVID 19

We are on day 11 of the semester. Requiring masks in class has mostly been okay, especially when faculty asked students to mask. There was one set of students who were not masking. An argument that can be made to students is that when working in an engineering field, it is common to be asked to follow protocols (like wearing a mask or helmet.) Students could relate and started masking.

Has anyone heard complaints about the current mode of teaching? Some heard of issues with mask supplies. Rosa has heard that there is one student who says there is a religious reason not to wear one. They came to the decision that she would not attend class in person.

Rod had a student that tested positive; the student was not sure who to notify and this student was also concerned about missing class. Faculty should notify the Dean's office of students who test positive to deanofstudents@asu.edu.

Sef expressed a wish for a system to get faculty tested every week. Kyle: that is a good idea. Instead of requiring testing, the university is encouraging using the kits.

Yong-Hang: will faculty get priority for 3rd shot? Kyle: It is being worked out. Faculty will go to a local pharmacy to get the vaccine.

George: a foreign student tested positive, and it will delay their return. Kyle: Please let the student's graduate advisor know.

Update of FSE Bylaws

Vice Dean Marco Saraniti addressed the committee regarding updating the bylaws.

Due to recent changes in the FSE schools, the bylaws need to be updated. This is one of the key functions of the EC. (The schools have their own bylaws that need to be updated as well.)
Some history: Marcus Herrmann, Marco, and Dean Paul Johnson created the first version of the bylaws. Last version of bylaws created in 2019. The EC should talk to faculty in their school to see what they would like changed.

Marco has a list of documents that have been created since 2019, so we can see what needs to be updated. Marcus will lead the EC in making the necessary and desired changes. A draft will be sent to the Provost for legal review. Revisions will most likely be necessary.

After EC updates bylaws, then the schools update theirs.

Bylaw documents are on EC website. Please review. This should be the task of EC in the next couple of meetings.

Diversity and Inclusion

DII@FSE Diversity and Inclusion Initiative launched in January 2019 with the formation of a task force.

The submitted proposal has made progress.

“Graduation” of DII@FSE: what is the next step for it?

How do we move DII into existing structures, such as new faculty committee, faculty retention and promotion, sabbatical committee, EC, etc ?

Kyle presented a sample “role of the committee” paragraph of bylaws for this committee/council.

Examples

1) propose standing committee/bylaws

2) explore mechanisms for recognizing DEIB contributions

3) elevate and communicate progress

EC impressions: Rod commented that it brought together many people from many roles on campus to contribute. Maybe bringing in students would be a good idea. Kyle: we could have a faculty and a student council.

P&T guidance to include DEIB; we have looked at what other colleges are doing. Rod: we need to explore and invent.

Rosa: diversity and inclusion a part of ERCs; Are there ideas there that we can use?

Sam: membership of committee; why just one person per school? Kyle: that is not set in stone; that was just to be nimble in the initial construction of the committee.

Sef: companies will need to consider diversity in future due to public sentiment. This makes this initiative important.

Kyle – how to keep it moving and fresh?

Jit: we need to be aware of reverse-discrimination; be aware of ACD. Kyle: ACD is a rule book/guardrails – the council can create opportunities to operate within those rails.

Jit: is there a measurable quantity to know if we are doing well or not. He feels diversity is very good in his school. Kyle: need to be clear about desired outcomes.

Action Items

- EC talk with faculty concerning changes to bylaws. Bylaw documents may be found on the website <https://assembly.engineering.asu.edu/>
- DEIB suggestions

Next Meeting

Friday, October 1, 2021 at noon

Location: Zoom <https://asu.zoom.us/j/81081444516?from=addon>