

Meeting Minutes
Executive Committee of the AFSE
May 6, 2022
12 NOON via Zoom

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

Absent: Anthony Lamanna, George Pan

Guests: Kyle Squires

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from April 2022 were unanimously approved.

Dean's Distinguished Lecturer

Feedback on the Calderbank talk that took place on Thursday, April 21st:

In the future, we should provide talking points or a guide to making the talk more accessible to a broader audience. The talk was more technical than others in the past.

We should have higher participation in the lunch by the EC members. Only three members could attend.

Next lecture:

We should start the selection of a new speaker now. A GoogleDoc contains a running list of ideas.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Yypvfi8vkbQ_CVV6E3kmq3kG0QeMZ2AJxk9O1VQUEh0/edit?ts=6001df40#gid=1873328740

AFSE website allows anyone to suggest a speaker.

<https://assembly.engineering.asu.edu/deans-distinguished-lecture/>

Kyle: Moving the talk to a less busy time, say by February would be better. Ideally, we would have the talk in late October or early November.

Sam: We should consider inviting a speaker from SEBE. (Three of the last four speakers were invited by SEMTE.)

Infrastructure was discussed as a good topic.

Rod: In addition to technical aspects of infrastructure, I would like to the speaker to address social and political aspects.

It was agreed that a more general topic could help with attendance.

Kyle: Secretary of Commerce, Gina Raimondo is an idea. President Crow knows her.

Action item: brainstorm aspirational choices.

Yong-Hang: One idea is someone representing the new NSF Directorate on Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships.

Dean's Dissertation Award

The committee reviewed a working document on Dropbox.

Rosy: Would it be possible for fall semester awardees to be acknowledged at the upcoming hooding ceremony?

Kyle: Instead of two graduation ceremonies, this spring we are having one, and as part of that decision, we will have a separate hooding ceremony to allow us to make the event more special. We will have a student speaker. Let's see how this goes, and we can think about adding Rosy's idea.

How many nominations should we accept from each school?

Current language: "Each school can nominate no more than two students per program and in total no more than the number of PhD programs."

Schools have very different number of programs, and some schools did not feel that they could nominate enough students given their size. The committee discussed what is a fair number.

Yong-Hang: We have said that the number awards will be up to 5% the prior year's Ph.D. graduates.

How does this get implemented in this?

Yalin: Percentage of students in each program should be considered since some programs are much larger than others.

Pitu: Some areas, like computer engineering, are in two programs. In this case CE is in SCAI and EE. How would this be counted?

Conclusion: Each school can nominate no more than two students per program and in total no more than the number of PhD programs + 2.

Student progress: prospectus vs comprehensive. Not all programs have prospectus as a formal step. It seemed that several programs do them at same time.

Rod: We are then saying, when they are considered a Ph.D. candidate.

Jit: Will students who get the award in March have the opportunity to present at the fall AFSE meeting?

Marcus: Yes, they will be invited (but they have likely left ASU).

What details should we have for how awardees will be acknowledged?

Kyle: For now, let's not be too specific about the hooding ceremony idea until we have had time to test the new format.

How many awards are we awarding?

Originally the announcement was 5% of the previous year's Ph.D. graduates per award period. We will continue that, meaning that in each award period there will be 2.5% per award.

Yong-Hang: The level of detail in "Review Process" seems excessive. For example, the spreadsheet detail is too much.

Dianne: This detail was added just over a year ago to address transparency complaints.

Marcus: Some of this detail could be just on the website and not in the In the Loop announcement or email to the school directors.

Dianne will clean-up the document and email to all EC members for a final okay.

Bylaws

Marcus and Dianne edited the bylaws, mostly changing small typos and inconsistencies. All members have access to it in Dropbox. Marcus emailed the document to Marco for feedback, and we are waiting to hear back.

COVID19 Update

Kyle: More positives are being reported. The provost would like people to test and promoting boosting. We need to stay on top of this.

Decision to have convocation outdoors was for safety.

Other Items from EC Members

Marcus is term limited. Will need to elect new chair at first meeting. The EC members thanked Marcus for his tenure as chair of the EC.

Meeting adjourned

ACTION ITEMS

- Dianne will get in touch with Kelli to place an announcement in In the Loop for faculty to suggest speakers.
- EC members should ask their faculty to make suggestions and brainstorm aspirational speakers by adding them to the GoogleDoc. (See minutes above for the link.)
- Dianne will clean up the Dean's Dissertation Award announcement and email to the EC members for final review.
- Once the new committee is determined, Dianne will contact all to arrange for the next meeting in early August.

Next Meeting

Friday, August TBD, at noon

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