

Meeting Minutes
Executive Committee of the AFSE
November 3, 2023

Present: Xiao Wang (chair), Dianne Hansford (secretary),
Brian Atkinson, Treavor Boyer, Nancy Cooke, Shenghan Guo, Vikram Kodibagkar,
Christopher Muhich, Pitu Mirchandani, Guoliang Xue, Yanchao Zhang,

Absent: Xiangyang Dong, Heather Emady, Anthony Lamanna, Yong-Hang Zhang

Guest: Kyle Squires, Kelli Haren

1. Approval of minutes

Motion: Approve minutes from October 6, 2023. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. Dean's Dissertation Award

Top three nominees will receive an award.

Recommendations for improving the process.

1) More reviews per candidate; each EC member will review four nominees.

2) Low number of nominees this round: incentivize faculty to nominate their student.

Kelli heard from units that if they had only one nominee, they had to choose between the fall or spring semesters.

3) More awareness of nomination deadline to faculty longer before the deadline.

4) An outside recommendation letter can be difficult to obtain; fewer letters could be required.

3. Dean's Distinguished Lecture

Kyle is looking for a speaker with broad audience appeal.

4. Online/in person course cheating

Plagiarism at the graduate level is a problem. In 2021-22, 684 violations were reported for on-ground courses and 275 for online courses. In 2022-23, 701 / 684 were reported.

Kyle: Students should be informed that if others are using AI, then this is decreasing the value of their degree.

Larry: Some students are using paid subscription generative AI for assignments.

Kyle: Generative AI will force assessment to be about concepts rather than answers.

Larry: Huge, online courses are a challenge to assess.

5. Dean's Fellowship

NSF grants are getting to the point of only funding a student, and there is no money for travel. However, the NSF is giving more money than before.

Brian: Are we going to create support for professional doctoral program?

Professional doctoral program provides leadership knowledge rather than technical knowledge that one gains at the master's level. Examples include doctoral of engineering and doctoral of IT.

Dan McCarville is working on a doctor of engineering program. These programs are best suited for business professionals. We can continue the conversation about the requirements of the doctoral of engineering, and Brian can provide more information on what they are doing in IT. (Examples of other professional doctoral programs include Doctor of Business Administration and Doctor of Education.)

6. Fulton Fellows

This is the first year of program. Faculty are committed to support students for four years. The cost of a RA is high, and the cost of doing business continues to rise, but revenues are not increasing enough.

Pitu: Could we reconsider the number of years of guaranteed support? (For example, three years instead of four years might reduce burden.)

Next Meeting

Friday, Dec 1, 2023

12:00 - 1:00pm in Zoom