

Meeting Minutes
Executive Committee of the AFSE
April 5, 2024

Present: Xiao Wang (chair), Dianne Hansford (secretary), Brian Atkinson, Nancy Cooke, Xiangyang Dong, Heather Emady, Shenghan Guo, Vikram Kodibagkar, Anthony Lamanna, Hyunglae Lee, , Guoliang Xue, Yanchao Zhang, Yong-Hang Zhang

Absent: Treavor Boyer, Pitu Mirchandani

Guest: Kelli Haren, Kyle Squires

1. Approval of minutes

Motion: Approve minutes from March 1, 2024. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. Dean's Dissertation Award

The EC finalized the reviews and produced a ranking of nominees, which will be communicated to Kyle.

The EC discussed improvements to the specification of the nomination periods.

Kyle: Are we seeing any trends in the nominees compared to other years?

Vikram commented that the application quality has gone up, especially the mentor letters.

Larry suggested requiring a DOI with publications to make publication status clear.

3. Teaching Professor/Professor of Practice Qualifications

Tony brought up that the new requirement that teaching professors have a terminal degree in their field is causing hiring problems in SEBE. Potential hires were pursued before the new rules requiring a PhD were established. Faculty on the search committee were told they cannot go forward with job offers to people with only a master's degree. These hires might be well-suited as Professor of Practice, and that position would be appealing to someone with a lot of industry experience. However, the advertisement was for teaching professor.

What are the requirements to be PoP? A master's with years of experience is in a way equivalent to a PhD. Is there a way to move from PoP to teaching professor?

Brian: In some fields, faculty have different types of degrees – MBA, MFA, etc.

Tony: In construction, there has not been a PhD degree for very long. This new PhD requirement could eliminate experienced professionals who have a lot to contribute. Experience should be evaluated, such as the size of company and the position relative to a company. Professional credentials, such as PE, should those be in the equation of qualifications.

Kyle: We do have a gap in the qualifications definition that needs addressed. Wording like “PhD or equivalent” could be used to fill gap.

Next Meeting

Friday, May 3, 2024

12:00 - 1:00pm in BYENG 660