

Meeting Minutes
Executive Committee of the AFSE
October 4, 2024

Present: Xiao Wang (chair), Dianne Hansford (secretary), Daniel Aukes, Treavor Boyer, Nancy Cooke, Heather Emady, Vikram Kodibagkar, Hyunglae Lee, Avi Wiesel, Guoliang Xue, Yanchao Zhang

Absent: Brian Atkinson , Xiangyang Dong, Ted Pavlic, Yong-Hang Zhang

Guest: Kelli Haren, Kyle Squires

1. Approval of minutes

Motion: Approve minutes from September 13, 2024. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. Dean's Dissertation Award

Review assignments will be emailed to EC members on October 11th, and this email will include the review procedure. EC recommendations to Kyle are due on November 1st.

3. Dean's Distinguished Lecture

This is not a research lecture, but one with broad appeal and not too domain specific. We are looking for individuals who fly at high altitude and whose work is broadly interesting. One potential outcome of this lecture is connecting the FSE community to the speaker's networks. We need a three-person ad hoc committee to explore speakers and make recommendations to Kyle. (Daniel, Treavor, Xiao) Timeline for the talk: February or March.

4. Election of the secretary

Sami Mian will serve as the nominating committee.

5. Other items from EC members

Treavor: Could we brainstorm some issues that this committee would like to address this academic year? Examples could include the doctorate programs and roll out of online programs.

Kyle: Another issue is teaching faculty's role of graduate advising. Teaching faculty have an important role in teaching; they can play a role in advising, but not a principal role.

Treavor: This seems like a good time to make this policy clear since we just updated the teaching faculty criteria.

Daniel: We have to be careful not to make teaching faculty feel that they don't have value.

The requirement that teaching faculty have a terminal degree (PhD) can result in some teaching faculty thinking that they should be able to advise research. Expectations need to be made clear.

Treavor: Reviewing the new teaching faculty criteria, there seems to be an option for advising graduate students, so maybe this should be clearer.

Avi: In construction, we have people who want to earn a PhD. Many countries are sending lecturers to do PhDs with guarantees of jobs when they complete. Who are we allowing to

advise these students? T/TT or also teaching faculty? What is in the best interest of the college? We need to prepare some for jobs in R1, R2 universities. This is a new idea in construction. The model is a bit different in terms of generation of funding. (In the rest of FSE, T/TT are hired to generate research dollars.)

Kyle: Advising PhD students is good professional development for faculty.

Daniel: When students come with funding, it is only a positive for my lab, even if I have to align my interests to their grant.

Xiao: After some deliberation, my program decided not accept PhD students without funding.

Treavor: By being better informed on important FSE topics, we can communicate better with our schools. Here is a summary of brainstorming topics.

1. Implementation of online BSE Engineering degrees
2. Role of Engineering Doctorate vs PhD
3. Interaction of FSE with new Medical School and Public Health School
4. Interaction of FSE with Global Futures Lab (GFL), which has increasing overlap
5. Over degree innovations like micro-credentials/certificates

#3: Coming: TPH (School for Technology and Health)

#5: President Crow is very interested in this. Especially within SEBE.

#4 Treavor: My impression of SEBE/GFL is that there is a bit of blur between GFL and FSE; GFL is not as technical as some think. (For example, math requirements in GFL are not as rigorous as in Engineering.) A joint degree declaration might benefit both programs.

Kyle: Is there demand for a new degree? Or could it be combine it with existing degrees?

Next Meeting

Friday, November 1, 2024
12:00 - 1:00 pm in BYENG 510