

Meeting Minutes
Executive Committee of the AFSE
March 7, 2025

Present: Xiao Wang (chair-SBHSE), Avi Wiesel (SSEBE), Hyunglae Lee (SEMTE), Xi Yu (MSN)

On Zoom: Olivia Burnsed (secretary-SBHSE), Nancy Cooke (TPS), Brian Atkinson (TPS), Daniel Aukes (MSN), Yanchao Zhang (ECEE), Treavor Boyer (SSEBE), Vikram Kodibagkar (SBHSE), Arul Varman (SEMTE), Yong-Hang Zhang (ECEE)

Not Present: Ted Pavlic(SCAI), Guoliang Xue (SCAI)

Guests: Kelli Haren, Kyle Squires

1. Approval of minutes

Motion: Approve minutes from February 7, 2025. The motion was unanimously approved.

2. Dean's Dissertation Award

a. Reminder to notify Olivia of any conflicts of interest by Monday, March 10

- Individuals directly involved in an individual's nomination, or the dissertation being considered shall recuse themselves from considering that individual for the Dean's Dissertation Award. Examples of reasons to recuse oneself will include nominator, committee chair, committee member, co-authoring papers, nomination letter writer, funded by and EC member's grant which contributes to the dissertation, or any other potential conflicting situation which might draw concern or criticism of the award or the award process.

b. Reminder of timeline:

- Scores to Olivia & Xiao by March 28th, 2025
 - **Save a local copy to email Olivia – do not put your scores on the shared file**
- Olivia will compile & rank scores for EC to discuss in meeting on April 4

3. Dean's Distinguished Lecture

Rafael L. Bras lecture was well received, attended, and organized. No notes for improvement other than the importance of finding lectures that are interesting to multiple schools.

4. Updates on Generative AI

- a. Proposal to debut a few examples of helpful and productive ways AI could be used to improve engineering education in one of the Fulton publications that are sent to faculty:

- i. Could include helpful ways to use AI to improve your instruction (ie. Input your lecture and have AI virtual assistant write questions problem set etc).
- ii. Example assignments of students debugging AI and AI generated codes – requiring that they reflect on the ways it was incorrect etc.
- iii. Have an input mechanism where students and instructors can propose ways to increase the use of tools where AI can be used and validated appropriately
- iv. Discussed how we can collect more good examples, best practices, and make them more easily shared and applicable for faculty.

5. Updates on Faculty Recognition

Some potential ideas and a potential event has been released through other sources and Kelli and Kyle are waiting for additional input before updating

6. Other items from EC members

- a. Nancy sent out email to PhD program chairs that should have been sent out to all faculty advising PhD students. Let Nancy know if you did not receive that email and she can follow up with Chairs directly.
- b. Discussion on the way the university is responding to external environment
The universities including ASU are being appropriately cautious. Currently suspending discretionary accounts for faculty (RID and RAA) for the time being. Different schools are having meetings to ask and answer questions related to using these accounts and working with Fulton center to make appropriate adjustments to remain cautious but still get work done in order to move forward. Hiring will be slower but we're able to keep advancing. School directors will be getting relevant information out quickly when relevant. Some follow-up questions were raised about accounts freezing, but those accounts are not currently completely frozen and they are trying to address commitments (ie. to PhD students which is why schools are working with Fulton to address each on a school basis)
- c. There was some discussion on how Fulton is currently prioritizing protecting displaced PhD students
- d. There was a discussion on ASU's charter... is it an asset or a liability? The charter has been in place since 2014 and that may be considered in this climate and was discussed as an asset to leverage.

- e. Discussion of PhD programs admitting more students than the market has places (in multiple majors) , for faculty is it a priority for the school or program at the cost of something else? We have a mechanism to educate our undergraduates and we've started converting undergraduate and masters to convert well to industry positions, but we haven't gotten there as well with doctoral students. Some relevant questions to address: How can we partner with industry as Fulton thinks about where students and industry want to go? How can we prove performance so that they'll keep coming back?
- f. There is a structure for Fulton Fellows – feedback will be sent to school directors about that soon.

Next Meeting

Friday, April 4, 2025

12:00 - 1:00 pm via [Zoom](#)