College of Engineering

North Dakota State University
Faculty Council Meeting
Thursday, March 23rd, 2023, noon – 1pm
Location: Memorial Union Sahnish

Attending:
CoE: Alan Kallmeyer, Scott Pryor, Maya Feldsien
ABEN: Clairmont Clementson, Sulaymon Eshkabilov, Xinhua Jia, Zhulu Lin, Ewumbua Monono, Leon Schumacher
CCEE: Surya Congress, Kalpana Katti, Chau Le, Kelly Rusch
CS: Anne Denton, Simone Ludwig, Petak Kotala
ECE: Ben Braaten, Jacob Glower, Roger Green, Danling Wang, Qifeng Zhang
IME: Kambiz Farahmand, Harun Pirim
ME: Ali Amiri, Fardad Azarmi, Adam Gladen, Long Jiang, Ghodrat Karami, Uildirim Suzen, Chad Ulven, Yechun Wang, Xiangfa Wu, Yan Zhang

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 12:08pm

2. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes from January 19, 2023. (Farahmad / Jia). Motion passed.

3. Announcements

(Kallmeyer): The new Engineering and Computational Sciences building is still moving through the legislature. The House approved it at a level of $84 million. It's now in the Senate. The $84 million includes a 30% private match, meaning $59 million state funding, about $25 million would be private. There are still some hurdles, but we're trying to keep optimistic.

Pertaining to NDSU Transform, there are some changes coming along. One of the big ones is a change in the financial operations model. The University is looking at redefining positions and responsibilities for anyone who does financial transactions. This is potentially going to cause some changes in our staffing. Currently, we have having meetings to try to minimize this impact. As we know more, we will put that information out there.

The other new model that's coming along is the Professional Advising model. I personally think this is quite good. This too will have an impact on our college, but the net impact will be positive. This advising model has a professional adviser hired through the career and advising center to specifically advise our first and second-year students. They will be in the College of Engineering, working together with us. That is a model that could be very positive in retaining our most at-risk students.

With this new model, faculty would still do all of the 3rd and 4th year advising. We would also do career advising. That's where faculty really are important and effective. This will happen a little quicker, with some of the professional advisers being hired this year.

Finally, graduate tuition waivers. For the coming year, no change. Letters are going out, graduate tuition waivers are being applied just as they have in the past. Beginning Fall 2024, it becomes a college-level decision. What I'd like to do is get the Research and Graduate Committee to take this up and discuss what we as a college want to do. We know that tuition waivers are very important on the recruiting side. There are some ideas that will be enforced campus-wide. For example, any student on a graduate waiver must be registered for a minimum of 6 credits. There will likely be a cap on the total number of credits you can have waived. If you're going for a master's degree, only 30 credits can receive a tuition waiver. If you have to have 6 credits a semester, that puts a time-limit on how long you can receive a tuition waiver. A Ph.D. would be a 90-credit cap. These are some of the things this committee should be discussing this coming year.

A question was raised related to faculty raises being considered in the State Legislature. The House Budget hat a 4% increase in the first year, 6% in the second – which is still below inflation. One key aspect to this is how to fund this salary increase if approved. Most of our budget comes from tuition. In order to avoid reducing our operating budget or requiring a tuition increase, the State is being asked to cover the salary increase.

Scott Pryor: The numbers for this coming year are not looking great across the University as well as CoE. For admitted students for this coming year, CoE is better that the university: CoE is down 5%, whereas other colleges are down 15%. For committed students, CoE is down 19%. That's not good, but there's still time to make that up.

What we can do about it is pay attention to prospective students. Whenever a prospective student is on campus, we need to pull out all the stops and give them our best. Another thing we can do is take care of our current students. That spreads the word that we care about and value our students.

4. Committee Announcements/Reports

CoE Executive: No report

Academic Affairs: No report

Research and Graduate: This committee has been discussing graduate programs and graduate policies for each department. Some of the departmental graduate handbooks are fairly old and may need revision. For the research awards, this committee is discussing adding a post-doc award.

University Senate: Senate has been discussing what happens when campus closes. One proposal is to prohibit faculty from doing anything if campus is closed. The rational is that some students do not have internet access or have kids to care for. Several faculty objected and that proposal was tabled. Another proposal offered faculty some flexibility: as long as you state what happens when campus closes at the start of the semester. That was also voted down.

5. Nominations & Elections for Fa23/Sp24

The following faculty were nominated and/or volunteered for the following positions:

- CoE Presiding Officer: Trung Le
- CoE Secretary (open)
- Academic Integrity: Kenneth Magel
- Assessment (open)
- Budget: Kelly Rusch
- Campus Space and Facility: Xinhua Jia
- Conflict of Interest: Yao Yu
- Faculty Affairs: Jordi Estevadeoradal
- General Education – alt: Qifang Zhang
- Grade Appeals: Jacob Glower
- Grade Appeals – alt: Ali Amiri
- Research and Consulting: Fardad Azarmi
- Technology & Instructional Services: Jacob Glower

6. Old Business
None

7. New Business
None

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:38pm

Respectfully Submitted
Jacob Glower
March 27, 2023