

College of Engineering
North Dakota State University
Faculty Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 3rd, 2025, 4-5pm, Dolve 202

Attending:

CoE: Alan Kallmeyer, Scott Pryor

ABEN: Clairmont Clementson, Sulaymon Eshkabilov, Zhulu Lin, Leon Schimacher

CCEE: Armstrong Aboah, Achintya Bezbaruah, Zhihui Ding

CS: Anne Denton, Simone Ludwig, Ajay Jha

ECE: Ben Braaten, Sumitha George, Jacob Glower

IME: -

ME: Ali Amiri, Fardad Azarmi, Inbae Jeong, Long Jiang, Ghodrat Karami, William Refling, Yildirim Suzen, Jessica Vold, Xinnan Wang, Xiangfa Wu, Yan Zhang

1. Call to Order

The meeting began at 4:03pm

2. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

This meeting did not have a quorum, so approval of the September 29th minutes was postponed until our next meeting.

3. Announcements

(Kallmeyer) There are several topics to cover.

New Building: The new engineering remains on schedule for opening Fall 2026. At this stage, we are starting to look at furniture selection. Costs remain on budget, meaning the money for equipment is still there.

New Horizons: Progress continues with three new programs in CoE:

- BS in Robotics and Automation,
- BS in Materials Science, and
- BS in Artificial Intelligence.

All three programs are close to being finalized with the goal of having these programs ready by Fall 2026. Searches for instructional faculty will be starting soon – with possibly three new hires for year 1. These will be instructional faculty (non-tenure track) with one hire anticipated in each program. The robotics program will be housed in IME and the AI program will be housed in CS. Materials' home hasn't been decided yet, but it will probably be ME.

Western Dakota Joint Program: In order to expand engineering opportunities in western North Dakota, NDSU is looking at creating partnerships with Dickenson State, Minot State, Williston State, and Bismarck State. Under this, a joint program with Minot State is in the works. This will be a joint program in civil engineering where students take all

four years at Minot State using NDSU's civil engineering's faculty, courses, and program. The goal is to obtain five years of funding to hire one or more NDSU faculty who live and work in Minot under this program. After five years, the program should be self-sustaining with the expenses covered by student tuition.

College Awards: The CoE awards ceremony was held last Thursday. Awardees are:

- Graduate Teaching Assistant of the Year: Xiaou (Shawn) Hu, CCEE
- Early Career Teaching Excellence Award: Jessica Volt, ME
- Excellence in Teaching Award: Yechun Wang, ME
- Graduate Research Assistant of the Year: Biraj Saha, CCEE
- Early Career Research Excellence Award: Umamaheswara Rao Tida (ECE)
- Kessler Excellence in Research Award: Mijia Yang, CCEE
- Outstanding Staff Awards:
 - Samantha Thomson, CS
 - David Shaw, CCEE

We congratulate all winners and greatly appreciate their dedication and work here at NDSU.

(Pryor): The numbers remain positive at NDSU:

- CoE's enrollment is up 5% over the past two years. This is in spite of NDSU's enrollment being flat for the past three years. With a 2-year delay in the budget formula, we should start seeing this increase in enrollment showing up in our budgets shortly.
- Retention rates in CoE are down a little, but CoE still has the highest retention rate of any college at NDSU.
- CoE's retention rate for transfer students is creeping up. Currently, transfer students have a higher rate than 1st-year students – which is good.
- Applications for CoE are also up 8% over last year. Up 12% for ND and MN students. We have a higher commitment rate for ND and MN students, so this is also positive.

4. Committee Announcements/Reports

Executive: No report

Promotion & Tenure (Karami): This year, there are seven candidates from CoE applying for tenure and promotion. Our committee held its first meeting to finalize the worksheet for the review process.

Departments have been asked to revise their PTE document, specifically the PTR section. They should include only the evaluation process and replace the written version with the following statement:

"The post-tenure review process follows the procedures outlined in Policy 352, Section 4.8, and the timeline provided by the Provost's Office."

Academic Affairs: Faculty working on course proposals should work with their representative before submitting. Each department's representative is:

- ABEN: Xinhua Jia
- CCEE: Armstrong Aboah
- CS: Anne Denton
- ECE: Kushal Ponugoti
- IME: Harun Pirim
- ME: Yah Zhang

Research & Graduate: no report

Senate: No Report

Research and Consulting (Azarmi): The University Research and Consulting Committee is seeking feedback on the proposed policy revisions for restricted research. A survey will be sent out via CoE's listserv shortly. Faculty with restricted research are encouraged to review this policy and provide feedback via this survey.

5. Old Business

Filling open positions: William Refling volunteered to serve as CoE's representative on the NDSU Program Effectiveness Committee.

6. New Business

none

8. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm

Respectfully submitted, 11/04/25

Jake Glower