

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the 12-10-09 meeting

307 Weil Hall

The meeting was called to order by the Council Chair at 3 pm. In attendance were:

Susan Sinnott, Chair
Dave Bloomquist, Secretary
Oscar Crisalle
Wolfgang Sigmund
David Hahn
R. Keith Stanfill
Lily Elefteriadou
Paul Gader
Mark Orazem
Tony Ladd
Gijs Bosman

Guest: Mark Law

The Chair distributed the Agenda and asked for any additions.

Agenda

1. Approval of minutes for November
2. Items from the floor
3. Proposed meeting dates for the Spring: 3:00 PM on Thursdays on Jan. 14, Feb. 18, March 4, and April 8
4. Update on overhead return changes
5. Arbitration talks
6. Clarification of Opportunity Fund College of Engineering Screening Process document
7. Faculty code of conduct

ITEM 1. Approval of Minutes. The minutes for the November meeting were both emailed and attached to the Agenda. It was moved and seconded to accept them as written. Motion to accept was approved.

ITEM 2. Items from the Floor. A. Summer Salary for faculty (included in ITEM 4.) and B. Combining Departments (ITEM 8).

ITEM 3. Meeting dates. February 18th changed to the 11th and April 8th to the 22nd.

ITEM 4. Overhead return. Mark Law updated the Council on the new method of O.R. Previously, faculty were given a "loan" for the upcoming year, with the amount based on what he or she had earned during the preceding year. The university's new policy is to reimburse

you for what you have earned. So the distributions being made now are for the earnings one accrued during the first quarter of this academic year. One reason was that in the past, the COE had to return \$400k to the University because the overhead return distribution exceeded what was ultimately brought in. So it is now "pay as you go". There was quite a bit of discussion regarding this issue. The University wants to standardize this procedure campus wide, since other Colleges and Departments were often inconsistent in the distribution process.

He then discussed the Summer Salary issue. In the past, if a faculty member was covered 100% for the summer on a contract, he or she probably still advised graduate students, wrote papers, prepared proposals, etc. - tasks not related to the particular agency funding the summer salary. In order to address this, the COE's solution is to pay a portion of the agency's summer salary (in this example, 25% for 4 months) during the preceding months (Jan, Feb, Mar and April), which then would free up E&G funds to cover the remainder of the summer, i.e., full support. Details on faculty buyouts, appointments, etc. would be made at the Department level.

This will start next Spring and it was suggested that a written policy on how it will work in the future be prepared by the College and be broadly disseminated. There was quite a bit of discussion on this issue.

ITEM 5. Arbitration talks. The Union and Administration are set to argue before the Administrative Judge on Monday and Tuesday of next week to resolve the impasse. It was suggested that Council members attend so that they can report back on the deliberations. Melissa will send out a Doodle for Council members to sign up.

ITEM 6. Clarification of Opportunity Fund Screening Process
In the documents distributed at the meeting was a draft of the screening process for the incentive seed fund. The F.C. was asked to review and comment on the it. It was suggested that a subcommittee be formed to peruse it for an email vote as soon as possible. Oscar, Keith and Lilly volunteered for this one time assignment.

ITEM 7. Faculty Code of Conduct. Mark Law sent an email to the F.C. Chair outlining some "dos and don'ts" that faculty should be aware of. He asked for Council feedback. Ultimately this will be used for training sessions he will be starting in the Spring so as to comply with University and Federal/State regulations.

Cammy wants the F.C. to take ownership of expanding such a document and Mark Law is willing to help with information he comes across. He said other Colleges might already have such a document.

The University's Faculty Handbook is geared towards policies and procedures but lacks important information on such things as cheating, types of tests that encourage it, graduate student treatment, academic misconduct, etc. This Code of Conduct should focus on the ethical conduct of faculty, for example, things that could damage the integrity of; published work, colleagues, students and to the College and University.

It was suggested that a subcommittee be formed to work with Mark. Oscar, David Hahn, Tony and Paul volunteered.

A question that remained unanswered was how would it be enforced? Some of it would be enforced by outside entities (contractual agreements and FERPA regs for example) It would especially be useful for new faculty. Peer pressure could also help faculty abide by the Code.

ITEM 8. Schools. Mark Law was asked to update the Council on the COE reorganization vis-à-vis formation of schools, departments liaisons, etc. He said that Civil and Environmental are the first to discuss such an affiliation, but that no decisions have been made. Basically the School would be a superset with the Departments retaining individual control over curricula, T&P, but budgetary issues would reside at the school level. A Director would oversee the School, with Department Chairs managing its academic affairs. Some felt that this model was adding another layer of administrators.

One advantage would be that the larger entity would enjoy improved outside visibility. Mark gave the example that most peer institutions have a joint Civil and Environmental Department, whereas at UF, the separate Departments are judged individually to the combined programs. If such a School was formed it would compete favorably with U. of Texas. Staff efficiencies might be improved and interdisciplinary research would be facilitated. Curriculum upgrades could also result.

Regardless of the outcome, a Council member reminded the group that the COE Constitution requires faculty input on all academic matters. A brief discussion ensued on the role that the F.C. would play regarding a Civil/Environmental liaison. One member felt that the Council (and indeed the entire COE faculty) should have a say so, since it might coerce other Departments to follow suit.

Other issues that came up: who will pay for the School operations, the Departments or the College.

Finally, a request was made to have Cammy come to the next Council meeting to discuss these and other ramifications resulting from a possible reorganization. Specifically how this would impact the other Departments futures.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Bloomquist, Secretary, F.C.