Minutes of the
Department of Materials Science and Engineering Faculty Meeting
Monday, April 4, 2016
IMS Room 147A

Attendance: Faculty: Mark Aindow, Pamir Alpay, Barry Carter, Avinash Dongare, Pu-Xian Gao, Rainer Hebert, Bryan Huey, Seok-Woo Lee, Serge Nakhmanson, Rampi Ramprasad, George Rossetti, Prabhakar Singh; Staff: Cathy McCrackan, Lorri Lafontaine

I. Meeting called to order by Pamir Alpay at 11:00 a.m.

II. Minutes of the meeting of March 7, 2016 were approved as written.

III. Departmental Updates: Pamir Alpay
A. Spring Seminar Series: Pamir Alpay announced the remaining seminars, which include:
   1) Dr. Stephen Ducharme (Nebraska Center for Materials and Nanoscience) - note: Dr. Ducharme is an important resource regarding the MERCK process, 2) Dr. Ibrahim Karaman (Texas A&M University) and 3) Dr. Vilas Pol (Purdue University).
B. Material Advantage Banquet: Pamir Alpay encouraged faculty to attend the Networking Banquet sponsored by the Material Advantage Student Chapter on Thursday, April 7, 2016 at UConn Hillel. Guest speakers include Harold Brody and Frank Preli of Pratt & Whitney.
C. Lab Equipment Update: Cathy McCrackan distributed information (attached) on lab equipment recently purchased and funded by MSE (25%), the School of Engineering (25%) and the Provost (50%). This equipment will benefit senior design projects and offer additional capabilities for mechanical testing.
D. UConn Engineering Centennial Reunion: All alumni, current and emeriti faculty members, graduate students, the class of 2016 and friends of UConn Engineering will join together to reflect on the School of Engineering’s history, journey and bold vision for the future on Friday, April 29, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. in Rome Ballroom.
E. IMS/Polymer Graduate Student Poster Session: A graduate student poster session will be held in conjunction with the IMS Affiliates Program annual meeting on Wednesday, May 25, 2016. Pamir Alpay encouraged faculty groups to present their posters. This is a great opportunity for students to interact with over 70 industrial affiliates, potentially leading to new collaborations and job opportunities.
F. AAUP Representatives Assembly: Barry Carter asked faculty interested in succeeding his term serving as AAUP representative for the department to please contact him. The position includes attending meetings and forwarding pertinent information to faculty. He stated discussions are ongoing regarding AAUP contract negotiations.

IV. Undergraduate Issues
A. Open House: Rainer Hebert announced the Prospective Students Open House will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2016. Faculty volunteers are still needed; please let him know if faculty are able to participate.
B. Concentrations: Rainer Hebert suggested reviewing the Nanomaterials and Energy Materials concentrations at the May faculty meeting.
C. ABET: Rainer Hebert shared the Undergraduate Committee is currently reviewing ABET changes to be discussed with faculty.
D. Special Topics Course: Barry Carter developed a new course created as an experiment focusing on current topics in Materials Science and Engineering. He outlined a different theme each week to students with guidelines for papers, including important references. Classroom discussions focused on papers followed by additional papers on discussions.
V. Graduate Issues
   A. Graduate Student Seminars: Bryan Huey noted the ten graded courses required for PhD students are a heavy burden and suggested an option for three credits, which could include professional development tied to seminars such as critiquing seminars. The Graduate Committee would make recommendations for faculty review.
   B. Graduate Student of the Year: Bryan Huey announced Venkatesh Botu (CBE PhD student) was awarded as the winner of the MSE Graduate Student Speaking Presentations; as a non-MSE major, he is not eligible for the MSE Graduate Student of the Year Award. Bryan Huey sought feedback from faculty as to the winner of the MSE Graduate Student of the Year - Arun Mannodi-Kanakkithodi and Nasser Khakpash both did very well in all aspects of the competition. Discussion followed. An electronic vote on the competition would be sent to faculty.
   C. PhD Program: Bryan Huey stated a special meeting would be held to discuss PhD program recommendations such as:
      1) Dissertation proposal defended by Years 3 or 4
      2) First-author publication by the time of final dissertation defense
      3) Review of core course requirements

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorri Lafontaine
Administrative Services Specialist