Minutes of the
Department of Materials Science and Engineering Faculty Meeting
Monday, January 26, 2015
IMS Room 147A

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

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

II. Minutes of the meeting of December 8, 2014 were approved as written.

III. Departmental Updates: Pamir Alpay
   A. Spring Seminar Schedule: Pamir Alpay announced the guests scheduled for the spring semester: Dr. Steve Suib, Director of UConn Institute of Materials Science (1/30/15); Kathy Saint, MSE Industrial Board Member and President of Schwerdtle Stamp Company (2/6/15); Dr. Michael Pettes, Assistant Professor of UConn Mechanical Engineering (2/13/15), Dr. Andrew Payzant, Neutron Sciences Directorate Oak Ridge National Laboratory (2/20/15), Dr. Chang-Yong Nam, Brookhaven National Laboratory (4/17/15); and Dr. Amit Misra, University of Michigan (4/24/15). Pamir Alpay requested faculty meet with guests whenever possible.
   B. Faculty Webpages: Pamir Alpay asked faculty to update webpages as this is the portal to the outside world; the MSE webpages are now mobile friendly.
   C. Flexible Teaching: Cathy McCrackan shared that the Institute for Teaching and Learning has created a web resource to help faculty learn how to teach a class from home or post a lecture in case class is cancelled. This innovative online technology called Mediasite is easy to use; additional details can be found at: http://itl.uconn.edu/a-flexible-teaching-option-for-overcoming-weather-challenges/.
   D. New Regulations for J-1 Visa Holders: Cathy McCrackan stated effective January 5, 2015 J-1 visa holders will be required to speak English proficiently and pass an exam such as the TOEFL in order to obtain a J-1 visa. Faculty sponsors will also be required to provide cultural experiences for the J-1 visa holders.

IV. Undergraduate Issues: Rainer Hebert
   A. Courses and Curriculum: Rainer Hebert moved to “remove CHEG 3156 as a required course and add a professional elective course for a total of nine credits of MSE elective courses” and “remove the ‘W’ element from MSE 4003 and add the ‘W’ element to MSE 4901.” The motion was seconded by Mark Aindow and approved unanimously by faculty.
   B. ABET/Senior Design (Self-Reports, Gatekeeper Questions): Rainer Hebert shared the current status of senior design projects (attached) and stated the same procedure for the gatekeeper process will continue for the spring semester. ABET is in the process of making recommendations to improve the process; changes will be made during the summer. Rainer Hebert also noted February 9 is the deadline to submit grades for fall 2014 incompletes.

V. Graduate Issues: Bryan Huey
   A. Qualifying Exam and Results: Bryan Huey announced all 11 first-year PhD graduate students passed the Qualifying Exam. Three students did exceptionally well and three did slightly low; he met with the three students with slightly lower grades to discuss focusing on areas needing improvement. The Graduate Committee is working towards restructuring the Qualifying Exam with fewer questions.
Graduate Issues continued:

B. Fall 2015 Graduate Positions and Applicants: Bryan Huey noted two Master’s students (Gyuho Song and Na Luo) are interested in continuing on to the PhD program and asked faculty keep them in mind when considering applications. There are currently 198 applications for fall 2015 and applications will continue to be reviewed; February 15 is the deadline. Currently, there are approximately 15 outstanding candidates. He asked faculty to please inform him of the number of graduate assistant positions they will have available.

C. Performance of Master’s Students in Classes: Bryan Huey inquired how Master’s students are doing in classes. Discussion followed on the benefits of raising the number of Master’s students, who are self-funded. The Master’s program sometimes serves as a feeder to the PhD program. The MEng program benefits the department financially.

D. Graduate Student Poster Competition: Bryan Huey recently sent an announcement to faculty and graduate students regarding the Graduate Student Poster Competition scheduled for Friday, March 27, 2015 in the Student Union Ballroom, Room 331. This competition will highlight graduate student research in science, technology, engineering and math. This award will not duplicate the current School of Engineering award. He asked faculty to encourage graduate students to apply; digital applications should be submitted by February 27 to lorri.lafontaine@uconn.edu.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorri Lafontaine
Administrative Services Specialist

IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, February 23: MSE Faculty Meeting (11AM - Noon), IMS-147A
Monday, March 23: MSE Faculty Meeting (11AM - Noon), IMS-147A
Monday, April 27: MSE Faculty Meeting (11AM - Noon), IMS-147A
Thursday, May 7: MSE Industrial Board Meeting (9AM - 1PM)
Monday, May 18: MSE Faculty Meeting (if necessary) (11AM - Noon), IMS-147A