Minutes of the
Department of Materials Science and Engineering Faculty Meeting
Monday, April 27, 2015
IMS Room 147A

Attendance: Faculty: Mark Aindow, Pamir Alpay, Avinash Dongare, Puxian Gao, Rainer Hebert, Bryan Huey, Theo Kattamis, Seok-Woo Lee, Radenka Maric, Serge Nakhmanson; 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 23, 2015 were approved as written.

III. Departmental Updates: Pamir Alpay

   A. Budget Issues: Pamir Alpay announced because of faculty and staff departures within SoE, Dean Kazerounian shared there will be no budget cuts to the department. Faculty IDC accounts will remain safe. The graduate assistantship allocation for 2015-2016 will be $125,000 and the Dean is considering adding two more assistantships; this allocation will cover the entire incoming class for their first semester. The Dean has also allocated $15,000 for lab improvements, the remaining half of Lorri Lafontaine’s position and has given approval to search for Cathy McCrackan’s position when she retires.

   B. Senior Design: Pamir Alpay shared Senior Design will be held in the Biology/Physics Building, Room 131, on May 1.

   C. Industrial Advisory Board: Pamir Alpay stated the Industrial Advisory Board meeting will be held on May 7. The agenda includes: 1) Pamir Alpay - MSE by Numbers; 2) Rainer Hebert - Undergraduate Studies Report; 3) Serge Nakhmanson - Graduate Studies Report; 3) Mark Aindow - UConn-FEI Center of Excellence in Microscopy; 4) Graduate Student Award Presentations; 5) Graduate Student Representatives; followed by lunch with faculty, staff and graduate student representatives.

   D. Commencement: Pamir Alpay thanked the seven faculty members participating in commencement. Richard Perez Moyet and Yenny Cardona Quintero will be returning for the hooding ceremony of the commencement exercises.

   E. Husky DM: Pamir Alpay asked faculty to complete their annual reports in Husky DM. This is an important tool for reporting faculty papers, presentations, students, etc. These numbers are used in determining resource allocations and how MSE looks to the administration.

IV. Undergraduate Issues: Rainer Hebert

   A. Connecticut Invention Convention: Rainer Hebert announced the Connecticut Invention Convention for young inventors is scheduled for Saturday, May 2, 2015. Departments are asked to showcase their discipline with demos throughout the morning at Gampel Pavilion. Please let him know if faculty are able to volunteer from 10:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for this event.

   B. Proposal for Revamped Freshman Year Curriculum: Rainer Hebert reported Dan Burkey announced a proposal to revise the freshman year curriculum, which will include additional team projects. The proposal will be presented in the fall; there is no immediate action. This proposal is in planning for the 900 incoming SoE students expected per year in the future.

V. Graduate Issues: Bryan Huey

   A. Graduate Admissions: Bryan Huey reported nine PhD applicants have accepted admission. The Graduate Student Domestic Recruiting Event sponsored by SoE was successful; the event recruited 70% of the MSE candidates who attended.
B. Graduate Student Award Competition: Bryan Huey stated the winner will be announced shortly for the competition. Four graduate students presented (Sapna Gupta, Yasemin Kutes, Austin McDannald, Zheng Ren). He noted this was a helpful exercise for students. Students were told to present “MRS style” talks - two followed the “MRS style” and two followed “job” talks. The student audience was allowed to vote. Serge Nakhmanson added this new activity is a good way for students to present their work. Pamir Alpay noted the competitors were well prepared and the questions from the student audience were excellent.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorri Lafontaine
Administrative Services Specialist

IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday, May 7: MSE Industrial Board Meeting (9AM - 1PM), IMS-47A
Monday, May 18: MSE Faculty Meeting (if necessary) (11AM - Noon), IMS-147A