

Meeting Minutes
Executive Committee of the AFSE
April 2, 2021
12 NOON via Zoom

Present: Samantha Brunhaver, Christopher Buneo, Marcus Herrmann (chair), Dianne Hansford (secretary), Rosa Krajmalnik-Brown, Anthony Lamanna, Doug Montgomery, George Pan, Rod Roscoe, Andreas Spanias
Absent: Jitendran Muthuswamy, Sefaattin Tongay, Yalin Wang
Guest: Dean Kyle Squires

Approval of the March 5, 2021 EC Minutes.

Minutes were unanimously approved.

Annette officially retired. She genuinely enjoyed working with the group. Kyle introduced Kelli Haren, who is taking Annette's role. The EC introduced themselves to Kelli.

Impact of COVID 19.

Will students be required to be vaccinated? Faculty accommodations will be through ACA as they have been done in the past. We are moving as if we will have a normal campus presence in the fall.

Graduation: working with schools to find out their plans. President Crow said there would be an in-person version, but that is not exactly accurate. There will be an official hooding ceremony. We are also setting it up so students can sign up and come in for photos.

With summer, there are many more requests for travel. This needs to go up through the provost. Faculty will have to state why there is a need to travel now. When faculty return from trip, they will be asked to have a negative COVID test before coming back. We are making good progress on vaccinations, but there are concerns about new COVID strains. Therefore, there is a higher bar for travel.

Is anyone using new Jabber system? (No one said yes.) Kyle said there are reports that it is not working well.

Fall in person teaching is the plan, but lower density classes might require Sync. What are the thoughts on teaching some graduate programs in Sync? Last fall we pivoted class times to make it more convenient for India and China time.

Marcus: students need to be in person for research, so why make classes Sync?

Rosey: She prefers an in-person class because of her experience this semester. It has been difficult to involve the one remote student. Interaction with Zoom students is not as good as with in-person students.

Tony: Experimented with set times for in person, but many students favored watching the lectures. This summer they are setting up hybrid and he will report back on its success.

GOEE is an online course.

Andreas: Hybrid/flipped course structure with live Q&A worked well.

Doug: Following similar concept as Andreas. Students like the group office hours to just hang out and

hear what other students have to say.

Kyle: What is the ratio of sync and online? Andreas: Online and sync about the same number of students.

Doug is doing at least 50% of classroom in Zoom. He highly recommends the office hours. Andreas has zoom office hours every day with TAs or himself.

Kyle: Zoom office hours lets many more students attend office hours.

Dean's Distinguished Lecture.

Distinguished lecture: No word from Sef on progress on Arun.

Tony has set up Ellen Stofan in April.

Plan for Stofan talk: Two hours between 10-1 on April 27 (for 2 hours of interaction).

Speaker would like a 40 minute presentation and 20 minute Q&A.

Kyle will meet with speaker for 15 – 30 minutes.

Other 30-45 minutes will be a joint meeting with faculty.

Lunar surface consortium initiative should be involved with talk and meetings.

Schedule preference: 11am seminar, meet with faculty 12-1; Kyle last Q&A.

Rod: How much collaboration has the last speakers created? Kyle: in the past, the talks have helped with connections for post doc positions and the like. This is a good point. It depends on the relationships that established the connection. Rod: it would be nice to create a more structured framework for further collaboration.

Other Items.

New CIDSE/Poly structure:

Kyle has continued messaging on sites; renaming going forward, proposals going forward. Rod got a feeling that there was some listening, and the plan did get modified to take into consideration faculty concerns.

President Crow is very proactive. Kyle will do right by faculty and students.

UDI (University Design Institute):

Doug: IE is doing planning for department

Kyle: think about other schools in this planning. We do not have to keep within the academic structures.

Lecturer Contracts:

Marcus: lecturer contract length in SEMTE has been brought up in recruiting and diversity. Longer contract lengths would particularly help with diversity.

TPS – some faculty will be in new manufacturing program, some not. Lots of lecturers in TPS programs.

We could consider a way to create longer contracts based on passing through a number of gates.

Should we consider new titles to signal multi-year contracts?

Marcus: We do searches for lecturers and they are considered faculty, so one considers why the contracts are so very different.

Financially COVID has been challenging, so that presents a problem with extending contract lengths.

Kyle: However, it is time to think of moving on this.

Rod: we could also consider more secure funding for graduate students. At Fulton it works on soft money, but in TPS that money does not always exist. How can we make this a better so we can be more competitive in getting the best students?

Kyle: The Deans Fellow positions are for supporting graduate students. Dean's office funds first year, giving faculty the opportunity to try out students. Then unit would be responsible for other years. Keeping up with stipend and other costs is hard with current financial situations. ASU is behind on dollars given.

Rosey: Deans Fellow only for US students.

Kyle: we are working on pipelines. Our own undergraduates are good candidates. But the Deans Fellow is used as a tool to bring students from elsewhere here.

Next Meeting:

Friday, May 7th in Zoom <https://asu.zoom.us/j/99004832850>