

Meeting Minutes
Executive Committee of the AFSE
August 19, 2022
12 noon via Zoom

Present: Heather Emady, Dianne Hansford (secretary), Vikram Kodibagkar, Rosa Krajmalnik-Brown, Anthony Lamanna, Hyunglae Lee, Pitu Mirchandani, Xiao Wang, Guoliang Xue, Yong-Hang Zhang, Yanchao Zhang

Guest: Kelli Haren

Welcome new members

New members include Guoliang Xue (SCAI), Vikram Kodibagkar and Xiao Wang (SBHSE), Hyunglae Lee and Heather Emady (SEMTE), Yanchao Zhang (ECEE)

Election of a chair

Xiao Wang was unanimously elected chair.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from May 2022 were unanimously approved.

Bylaws updates

The committee reviewed changes to the bylaws that were made during the spring semester.

1) Modification of Article 4.7 (EC members to be elected by faculty of their school rather than appointed by the director.) The committee thought this was a good change that might allow more faculty to have the opportunity to serve on the EC, and it might give the EC and its purpose more visibility.

2) Addition of Article 4.5 (the “administrative changes” powers). The first sentence is as follows.

The Executive Committee is empowered to make interim revisions to the FSE Bylaws to bring the FSE into required compliance with changes in administrative structures implemented at the university level or in ACD policies.

Guoliang: Is the interim version the legally binding bylaws?

The EC discussed whether this sentence is too broad.

Yong suggested: *The Executive Committee is empowered to make **those** interim revisions...* to indicate only changes related to administrative structures.

The EC will work on this sentence, making it more precise, and re-visit it during the next meeting.

3) The committee reviewed the addition of Article 7.F.3 to the bylaws, made by Kyle and the (ad hoc) DEIB Faculty Advisory Council.

Kelli: This standing committee will have the acronym “IFAC” for Inclusion Faculty Advisory Council.

Some issues were raised concerning the following sentence.

The Council aims to ensure that the AFSE celebrates and encourages DEIB in multiple dimensions including, but not limited to, age race, cultural background, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, physical ability and disability, religion, ideas, perspectives, and preferences.

Vikram: Could including “ideas, perspectives” be too broad? For example, someone could promote a flat earth theory, or something else that contradicts accepted thought in academia/what we are teaching. Yong and others felt that “celebrates” goes too far; “encourages” is sufficient.

Town Hall

The AFSE town hall will take place on Sept 16, 2:30 – 3:30 pm in Marston Theater, ISTB4.

Kyle would like to present the changes to the bylaws at this event and proceed with a vote.

The committee recommends voting on each change separately and holding an electronic vote so more faculty can participate.

Kelli presented the idea of the Dean’s office facilitating the vote through a Google form. (To adhere to the bylaws, the schools must be asked if they would like to allow the Dean’s office to organize the voting for their school.) The committee thought this was a good plan.

Dean’s Distinguished Lecturer

The committee decided that February is a good target date for the talk. The Google sheet of suggested speakers will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Dean’s Dissertation Award

There was a consensus that the wording of the announcement needs improved and a fairer determination of the number of nominations needs established. This topic will be discussed at the next meeting. Improvements can be implemented in the January call.

Meeting adjourned

ACTION ITEMS

- Dianne will send out an email regarding Article 4.5 (“administrative changes”) to the bylaws to give the EC an opportunity to review it.
- Dianne will communicate bylaws suggestions to Kelli, Kyle, and Marco.
- Suggested: Committee members gather ideas for a fair distribution of Dean’s Dissertation Award nominations over the schools.

Next Meeting

Friday, September 2, 2022, at noon

Location: [Zoom](#)