

**College of Engineering and Applied Science
Department of Civil Engineering and Mechanics
Minutes of the Departmental Faculty Meeting**

Date: September 3, 1999

Place: EMS E375

Present: Profs. Beimborn, Bratanow, Bravo, Christensen, Cutler, Ghorbanpoor
(Chair), Horowitz, Helwany, Lee, Shaikh, Tabatabai

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM.

Announcements:

The Chair made the following announcement:

- Prof. Ken Neusen has been appointed as Interim Dean of CEAS.

Revised Minutes of May 14, 1999 meeting:

Prof. Lee moved (seconded by Prof. Christensen) to amend the minutes (as presented in this meeting) to include two memos written by Profs. Bratanow and Cutler. The motion passed with 8 yes votes, two no votes and one abstention. Prof. Horowitz moved (seconded by Prof. Christensen) to approve the minutes of the May 14th meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes of August 30, 1999 meeting:

Prof. Lee suggested that on page 1, the sentence starting with “Prof. Cutler noted ...” and including the two bulleted items should be deleted. Prof. Beimborn moved (seconded by Prof. Horowitz) to approve the minutes of August 30 meeting with the above-noted deletion. The motion passed unanimously.

Industrial Advisory Council (IAC) Recommendations:

Prof. Ghorbanpoor noted that the agenda for IAC meeting has been distributed to the Department faculty. Here are the specific steps that the Department has taken or is taking in response to IAC recommendations:

Surveying: Prof. Horowitz is making changes to the Surveying course. This course and the lab will be required for all CE students, and will be revised to emphasize sources and use of surveying data.

Computers: A committee comprised of Profs. Beimborn and Bravo will meet with Computer Science people (Prof. Levine and Mr. Beller) to determine if an appropriate course currently exists that can replace 151. The committee will also come up with a list of topics to be covered in such a course.

Chemistry: Prof. Christensen noted that a course (240-521) already exists that covers chemistry for environmental engineers. Regarding a 5-credit chemistry course, the department wishes to postpone action and monitor the situation as it develops in the college.

Structural Design: The Structures Group met prior to the faculty meeting (Prof. Naik was not present). Those present agreed that a combined design course should be developed that, as a minimum, includes steel and concrete design. This course would be required for all students. The Structures Group will meet again to discuss this matter and form an outline for the course. The impact of this change on second tier courses must be evaluated and the contents of other courses may be revised.

Soil Mechanics: Prof. Helwany will consider and evaluate various options in this regard.

Water Resources and Environmental Engineering: Prof. Lee noted that 240-411 has environmental content. A committee comprised of Profs. Christensen, Lee and Bravo will meet to discuss IAC recommendations and will report back to the Department.

Finite Elements: It is recommended that a Finite Element course for Civil Engineering students alone be developed.

Communications: The faculty is very much aware of the problem noted by the IAC. Many courses currently require submission of reports and/or papers. Several courses (366, 456, 590, and 495) currently require oral presentations. Other courses (492, 592, 610 and 371) will be requiring oral presentations.

Project Management: Prof. Tabatabai will work on reactivating an earlier course entitled “Contacts and Specifications”.

Trimming the Core: The faculty agrees that the ability of the students to pass the FE exam should not be compromised. However, the importance of the two courses noted should not be underestimated.

Other Items:

The next Faculty Meeting will be on Friday, Sept. 17th at 1:00 PM. Prof. Beimborn provided the Curriculum Committee with the NCHRP 347 Report entitled “Civil Engineering Careers – Awareness, Retention and Curriculum”. The meeting was adjourned at 2:40.

Respectfully submitted

Habib Tabatabai
Recording Secretary