

College of Engineering Student Council (CSC) Meeting

Date: December 8, 2017

Time: 3:30 – 4:50pm

Location: Eccles Board Room

Minutes approved by Council Chair on 12/15/17

Council Members Attending:

Leann Lam, BioE UG
Jared Zitnay, BioE Grad
Thomas Wood, ChE UG
Josey McBrayer, ChE Grad
Khalid Ahma, CS Grad
Matthew Milkulich, Civil UG
Ruoyang Wu, Civil Grad
Joe Harmer, ECE UG
Yuanrui Sang, ECE Grad
Campbell McGavein, ME UG
Isaac Nelson, ME Grad
Richard Otero, MSE UG
Marcus Parry, MSE Grad
Chase Petersen, ASUU Senator
Haley Feten, ASUU Assembly
Erikca Feten, ASUU Assembly
Mitchell Kirkham, ASUU Assembly
Eric Komperud, ASUU Assembly
Ajay Nahata, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, CSC Advisor

Council Members Absent:

Abhi Harikumar, ASUU Assembly
Younglae Shin, ASUU Assembly
Johathan Call, CS UG

Others Attending:

Richard Brown, Dean
Morgan Boyack, College of Engineering Staff
Monica Heaton, College of Engineering Staff

WELCOME

Dean Richard Brown welcomed members to the first College of Engineering Student Council meeting. Changes made in ASUU created the College Student Council to provide opportunities for student input at the college level, to encourage participation in department and student club activities, and to promote academic development.

This is a student committee, the Dean asked the members what they would like to discuss.

Chase Peterson asked the members to discuss how members would be elected going forward, the purpose of the committee, and how often the committee would meet.

Committee Membership

Membership for the current committee consists of 1 ASUU Senator, 6 ASUU Assembly Representatives, 7 Department GSAC Representatives, 7 Department UGSAC Representatives, and 1 Dean Appointed Advisor.

Recognized student organizations will not include any student group that serves as a function of the University department, therefore, ASUU will no longer recognize department Student Advisory Committees (SACs). The College encourages departments to have student chapters of Professional Societies to fulfill the social and academic roles previously provided by the SACs in some departments. Student professional societies are recognized by ASUU as official student organizations. Involvement in student professional societies as officers is more beneficial to students than service on SACs because the professional organizations are recognized nationally.

The committee discussed the future composition of the College SAC, specifically, whether representation should be per department or based upon the number of students per department, and how and when students would be elected.

After much discussion, the committee determined the College of Engineering Student Council Membership will consist of the following: ASUU Senator, ASUU Assembly Representatives, one undergraduate student per department, and one graduate student per department. The term of representatives' appointments is 1 academic year.

Department representatives will be selected following the ASUU election, since the ASUU senator and assembly representatives cannot also serve as department representatives. Each department's faculty will decide how to select their graduate and undergraduate student representative. Departments will be encouraged to inform students of the opportunity to serve on the College SAC, and of the selection process that applies to their department. If multiple students are interested in serving, the representative could be selected through an election. A department could decide that an officer of a student professional society will represent the department's students on the College SAC. The department chair could appoint a student to serve on the College SAC.

The committee will meet as needed (to be determined by the College SAC chair); the committee should meet at least once, and probably twice per semester. Subcommittees can be formed to focus on specific issues; they will meet as needed. The Dean and or the Dean's Designee Advisor(s) will attend the College Student Committee meetings.

The committee voted in favor of the committee composition, with one objection (17 YES, 1 NO, 0 Abstain). The objection concerned the size of the committee. With the proposed membership, there will be 21 members of the College Student Council. Should the council grow, changes may be required to keep the membership at a functional level.

Committee Leadership

The next order of business was electing a chair of the College SAC. A proposal was made and seconded to appoint Chase Peterson, the current ASUU Engineering Senator, to the position. The members voted unanimously (18 YES, 0 No, 0 Abstain) to appoint Chase Peterson as the College of Engineering Student Council Chair.

Future appointments of VP, Treasurer, and Secretary may be considered as the role of the committee is developed.

Committee Role

What is the role of the committee?

Members asked whether this committee would be involved in the RPT process if the department SACS no longer existed?

Dean Brown said that he is currently serving on a University-wide committee that is drafting changes to policy that will no longer require SACs to be involved in the RPT process. Student input on teaching quality is very important and will be collected other ways. The best way for students to get their voice heard is to complete each course evaluation. In RPT cases, the Dean reads student comments submitted on course evaluations. Additionally, the use of a new Peer Teaching rubric by faculty evaluators will make these evaluations more helpful and consistent.

Will the committee distribute money to students and student organizations?

Yes, the committee will review applications for travel funds from undergraduate students who request travel support independent of a student organization.

Should departments retain SACs, they may also request funds through the CSC to help advance student involvement in departmental activities.

Do student organizations request funding through the CSC?

No, student organizations will work with their assembly representative to draft a bill that will go directly to ASUU rather than going through the College Student Council.

What does it mean to promote academic development?

Chase Peterson indicated that one of the roles was to promote academic development, which is helping students succeed at school by helping them find organizations they can belong to, engaging in peer group activities, and informing students of support services of which they should take advantage.

Dean Brown commented that student organizations are important for retention and for providing leadership experience to students. We want every student to find an organization with students of similar interests to which they can connect.

How do students provide input at the college level?

Dean Brown indicated that there will be various items that come up throughout the year on which he would like to get student input. The CSC represents their peers and the Dean values the input they offer. In fact, today he would like to get the committee's input on differential tuition.

Differential Tuition

A review of the cost of educating students shows that it costs more to educate an engineer than to educate a student in any other major. According to the American Institutes for Research ("Cost to Institutions of STEM Degrees.pdf"), an engineering degree costs the institution 60% more than the average college degree, and 150% more than the least expensive degrees. For this reason, universities began charging differential tuition in engineering many years ago. Differential tuition in our college of engineering started in 2009, after the financial crisis caused severe budget cuts to the university. Without differential tuition, some programs would have had to be eliminated.

To this date, differential tuition in the College of Engineering has been assessed on junior, senior, and graduate level courses. The College is now asking that we add differential tuition to freshman and sophomore level undergraduate classes with the same differential rate as for the other undergraduate courses. An increase is needed to help offer our courses to cross-disciplinary programs, to increase tutoring resources, and to hire additional TA's. (The additional TA's hired would be College of Engineering students, and some of the differential tuition would come from non-Engineering students.) The additional cost to CoE undergraduates would vary by program, but on average, would cost an additional \$900 in total tuition across their entire undergraduate degree. The University of Utah continues to offer the lowest tuition cost in the PAC 12 and Big 10 (less than half what some other public universities charge), and with this increase, the University of Utah continues to be a great education at an affordable price. It is our desire to provide an education that is of the highest quality.

Chase Peterson proposed that the committee support differential tuition on freshman and sophomore courses; the proposal was seconded. The vote was majority affirmative except for one objection and one abstention (16 YES, 1 NO, 1 Abstain). A public meeting open to all students will be held to discuss this proposal.