

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**  
College of Earth and Mineral Sciences

**MINUTES**

May 20, 2008 • 8:45 a.m. • 116 Deike Building

The Executive Council met on Tuesday, May 20, 2008 at 8:45 a.m. in 116 Deike Building.  
Members in attendance were:

Bill Easterling, Dean  
John Hellmann, Associate Dean for Education  
Cathy Lyons, Associate Dean for Educational Equity  
Yaw Yeboah, Department Head, Energy and Mineral Engineering  
Tim Bralower, Department Head, Geosciences  
Allen Kimel for Gary Messing, Department Head, Materials Science and Engineering  
Eugene Clothiaux for Bill Brune, Department Head, Meteorology  
Rob Crane, Director, AESEDA  
Chunshan Song, Director, EMS Energy Institute  
David DiBiase, Director, Dutton e-Education Institute  
Susan Brantley, Director, Earth and Environmental Systems Institute  
Alan Taylor, Chair, EMS Faculty Advisory Committee  
Kelly Henry, Director of Communications and Marketing

**Announcements**

- Alan Taylor announced a change in policy by the Faculty Advisory Council regarding the College's Ombudsperson (**handout attached**). Three recommendations were put forward to include:
  - An Ombudsperson should be designated in each academic department—this person should be listed in the department's graduate student handbook.
  - The Ombudsperson should not be a decision maker in areas that affect graduate student funding.
  - The Ombudsperson should undergo training at the University level.

"An Ombudsperson for Graduate Students in EMS Departments" document was developed to generate consistency across the College. Units should be sensitive to gender issues. Individuals that are seeking help from an Ombudsperson need to feel comfortable. The process needs to be flexible. The purpose of an Ombudsperson is to solve problems before they escalate. The Graduate School is currently working on mandating this process.

**Discussion:**

- ❖ Cathy Lyons, Associate Dean for Educational Equity, volunteered to serve in this capacity for all graduate students in the College.
- ❖ Gender/Ethnicity – the key is to give the students as many avenues as we can to solve issues before they escalate.
- ❖ Meteorology allows the students to select who they are nominally comfortable with; then the Department Head makes the decision on who best fits the role.
- ❖ The Ombudsperson needs to be listed on the College web site with contact information.

The recommendations for the “Ombudsperson for Graduate Students in EMS Departments” document was approved by the Executive Council.

- John Hellmann announced:
  - ❖ Paid accepts for FA08 are a 196 to include 15 advanced placement students.
  - ❖ FTCAP begins this week (May 19)
  - ❖ Four dates have been proposed for the accreditation visits: October 26-28 and November 9-11. The dates will be confirmed as quickly as possible. Please mark your calendars.
  - ❖ Summer Summit will be held July 15-20 in Arlington, VA. More information will follow.
  - ❖ A memo was received from the Provost regarding Faculty Teaching Scholarships: \$2500 per course for emeritus faculty to return to the classroom for first-year seminars—a copy of the memo will be sent to all Department Head—proposals need to be sent to Rob Pangborn by June 25.
- Bill Easterling announced that the PSIEE proposals are due on Thursday, May 22. Yaw Yeboah, Carl Zimmerer, Bill Brune and Gary Messing have been developing three proposals that are built on the clean carbon initiative—social science, energy risk, and energy policy. A proposal on fuel cells energy storage

will be generated with Materials Science and Engineering and Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering nominally from PSIEE. Letters of support are currently being developed and in order to meet the deadline.

- Rob Crane announced that eight groups are in place for SEEMS this summer. Between 3 and 5 are still needed.

Summer topics for the Executive Council will include:

- ✓ reviewing the process on how we allocate TAs
- ✓ evaluation of faculty who are holder of endowed professorships
- ✓ graduate student recruitment
- ✓ a diversity session will be held for the Executive Council

### **Strategic Planning (continued)**

**GOAL 4:** EMS as the “engaged college.” We are an active and valuable participant in the education of our stakeholders and the public on matters of high social relevance in the earth, energy and materials sciences.

An overview was given by David DiBiase on Goal 4 to include:

- ✓ Engagement – creating a strong outlet to society
- ✓ Universities are changing the expectations of society
- ✓ Significant outreach activities are already taking place
- ✓ These activities are inadequately promoted
- ✓ Some of the best activities are underfunded
- ✓ Historically it has been a struggle to pay for these activities
- ✓ To date we have not developed a College-wide engagement activity that potentially could generate net revenue
- ✓ Goal 4 is very achievable, as well as sustainable
- ✓ Goal 4 definitely aligns with University strategies

- ✓ 80,000 people at 80,000 locations – encouraged to think about key drivers
- ✓ Society drivers – changing expectation, as well as demographics—students seeking additional education (older)
- ✓ Proposed Bachelor of Arts and Energy, Environment and Society
- ✓ This would be a new league for EMS. It would be cutting-edge for the University; however Arts and Architecture already offers a few of these
- ✓ Goal 4 will compliment EMSAGE—allows us to diversify our student body (average age of our students)
- ✓ Outreach is also interested in a jointly funded a faculty position in EMS. This person would be the academic lead while DiBiase serves as the liaison with World Campus
- ✓ The estimated cost is approximately \$125,000/year for four years (temporary funding) – this would generate revenue before the end of the strategic planning period. EMS would only need to develop 12-15 new courses to make this happen. All the basics are in place—specialize College offerings—400-level courses.

### **Open Discussion**

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| <b>CRANE</b>      | Is there enough support for the language courses?   |
| <b>DIBIASE</b>    | Yes – I would ensure that there are enough instructors available for this additional need.  |
| <b>EASTERLING</b> | Is this a step in the right direction for us to take to make ourselves an engaged college?  |
| <b>KIMEL</b>      | What would a person do with this degree? What is their next step after receiving this degree?   |
| <b>DIBIASE</b>    | Green collar jobs – we will be producing those individuals – more communications oriented   |
| <b>DIBIASE</b>    | A steering committee would be created with volunteers from each unit. The committee would be chaired by the outreach position. We will rely on the growth of our faculty. We would engage our alumni to help our standing faculty teach these |

enrollments. We need to create 400-level courses – a content expert is needed plus funding for that position.

- EASTERLING** We should not get too focused on energy. Visualize this as a vehicle for putting together courses in areas such as water. This is a way to take our strategic interests and open them to the world.
- DIBIASE** These courses can be developed for other uses.
- BRALOWER** Geosciences is supportive of this effort and confident that it will be successful. However, there is some concern about the large amount of funding that has been invested in the EMS Museum. The museum takes up a huge amount of space and the exhibits are static. It would be good to have the Museum be part of the Bachelor of Arts degree.
- KIMEL** EMS is posed to educate society on what is happening—these are the kinds of changes you could make now—composting energy uses—good vehicle for the museum
- DIBIASE** It would be good if we could deploy the interactive session.
- EASTERLING** The 1, 2, 3s of being a curator with a focus on earth and mineral Sciences—Museum could be brought into this in many ways—we should funnel our revenue (formula) to the Museum.
- YEBOAH** We need to realize that developing these online courses will take a tremendous amount of time and resources—this is tuff for tenure track faculty.
- DIBIASE** The Dutton e-Education Institute would take the risk in developing these materials—engaging those interested on a volunteer basis, plus alumni interest.
- EASTERLING** It is an investment—it will burden the faculty—however it could generate significant revenue for our departments and units.
- CLOTHIAUX** 400-level courses—junior/senior faculty expertise—relinquish those courses and provide an incentive to tenure-track faculty—when the revenue is generated provide the faculty member with summer funding—if the course is truly successful, then faculty could hire a post-doc to teach the course—this would serve as a buy out and summer funding would be available.

- DIBIASE** A large amount of data will not have to be reconstructed.
- TAYLOR** An element is needed for the public mechanism, which will engage our stakeholders
- EASTERLING** The desire is to have a faculty member supported by Outreach who would be expected to represent different aspects of each unit—there may not be a one size fits all person
- CRANE** If we start generating this online material and continue to update the material, a web site could be developed with “tips from the experts” making Penn State and EMS available online
- BRANTLEY** Would residential students be able to get this degree?
- DIBIASE** Exclusively this would be an online program to avoid competition with other programs.
- BRANTLEY** That generates revenue?
- DIBIASE** We have been ensured by Rod Erickson that there will not be a change in the revenue process.
- BRANTLEY** Then it is apparent that we should be offering a number of these courses.
- EASTERLING** A more extensive discussion on this topic will take place this summer.
- BRALOWER** Amy Glasmier, Andy Kleit, Klaus Keller, Tim Bralower, Michael Mann, Dave Bise will be submitting a course proposal in the near future to this end.
- YEBOAH** We need to ensure balance in house, as well as online
- EASTERLING** The proposal is to start initiating the development of a Bachelor of Arts degree.
- If this is articulated in this manner, will the faculty in the specific units support this initiative? I am supportive of changing the rewards system in order to encourage participation in these types of programs.

- BRAWLOWER** If faculty are rewarded for these initiative, I believe they will participate.
- BRANTLEY** Can we guarantee the quality of the program? The description seems a bit vague.
- DIBIASE** We will need to development quality assurance mechanisms that people can trust--undergraduates need a different level of care
- CLOTHIAUX** I believe that if there is not a financial reward process in place, there will be no participation from the faculty.
- DIBIASE** A key to this discussion is to recognize that a B.A. is much different than a B.S.
- EASTERLING** It is understood that the faculty will be critical. At the end of the day this may not be achievable; however, we need to go into a discussion with an open mind. It is a matter of seeing what is possible and deciding if we want to make the sacrifices to ensure success.
- QUESTION** Do we want to put this initiative in the Strategic Plan?
- BRANTLEY** This is an experiment. We need to figure out the best way to move forward; and it makes sense to cut across the college so that everyone can figure out how to participate and benefit.
- TAYLOR** This is an excellent way to change the culture.
- HELLMANN** We not only have the mechanism—we have the environment and the knowledge.
- CRANE** We know that others are going to head in this direction.

Meeting adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by:  
Kelly Henry, Director of Communications and Marketing