School of Engineering Faculty Meeting  
Wednesday, January 27th, 12pm in Nelson Auditorium

In Attendance:

**BME**  
Xiaocheng Jiang  
Sergio Fantini  
Mark Cronin-Golomb

**ChBE**  
Kyongbum Lee  
Ayse Asatekin  
James Van Deventer  
Maria Flytzani-Stephanopolous

**CEE**  
Daniele Lantagne  
Dan Kuchma  
David Gute  
Laurie Baise  
John Durant  
Wayne Chudyk  
Natalie Capiro  
Anne Marie Desmarais  
Chris Swan  
Andrew Ramsburg

**CS**  
Alva Couch  
Ben Hescott  
Matthias Scheutz  
Rob Jacob  
Soha Hassoun  
Ethan Danahy  
Kathleen Fisher  
Anselm Blumer

**ECE**  
Aleksander Stankovic  
Eric Miller  
Jeff Hopwood  
Ron Lasser  
Tom Vandervelde

**ME**  
Chris Rogers  
Behrouz Abedian  
Luisa Chiesa  
Behrouz Abedian

**TGI**  
Mark Ranalli  
Sam Liggero  
Inge Milde

**Dean’s Office**  
Jianmin Qu  
Scott Sahagian  
Amy Maher  
Zilia Munguia  
Kat Mor  
Jason Rife  
Fiorenzo Omenetto

**Guests**  
Karen Vagts  
Margery Davis  
Keleigh Sanford

Chaired by: Jianmin Qu, Dean  
Minutes by: Zilia Munguia

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**SUMMARY**

- Faculty & Student Achievements  
- Math 34 Vote  
- Town Hall Discussion  
- The meeting minutes from December 16, 2015 were approved.

The meeting commenced at 12:05pm

**Announcements**

**Achievements**

**Computer Science**

- Betsey Yuksel received a grant from the AS&E Diversity Fund Committee for her proposal for Women in Computer Science mentee program.
• Kathleen Fisher was invited to be keynote speaker at YOW! in Australia. She was also invited to talk at PEPM 2016x and USENIX Security conference.

• Students Jennifer Hammelman, Tara Kola, and Thomas Schaffner received CRA Outstanding Researcher honorable mentions from the Computing Research Association.

Mechanical
• Doug Matson was awarded the NASA Grant.
• Igor Sokolov & Sameer Sonkusale received a Nanointender
• Rob White, Vesper MEMS to study Aluminum Scandium Nitride as a high performance piezoelectric material for acoustic microsystems.

Electrical & Computer
• Alex Yarel has a journal article published that is based on summer research work in Jeff Hopwood’s lab.
• Valencia Joyner Koomson was selected as an Associate Editor for the IEEE Transactions on Circuits & Systems Journal for a 2 year term. Valencia will also host the 2017 IEEE Midwest Symposium on Circuits and Systems at Tufts University in conjunction with Draper Labs.

Chemical & Biological
• Ayse Asatekin won a CAREER award from NSF.
• Meenal Datta, Ph.D. student, received a pre-doctoral fellowship from NIH.

Civil and Environmental Engineering
• Kurt Pennell received NIH/NIHM to study environmental exposures in Autism.
• Luis Dorfmann delivered Plenary Lecture at ISSEC (Irish Society for Scientific & Engineering Computation).
• Al Wood, master’s student in John Durant’s research group received a Tufts Graduate Research Award for his project “Water Qualifying Sampling of Per-Urban Point Source Pollution, Jarabacoa, Dominican Republic.
• Rob Viesca has a paper in the November issue of Nature Geoscience. (Click Here for Article)

Gordon Institute
• TGI awarded the Montle Prize for Entrepreneurial Achievements to the top 3 finishers.

Math 34- Jason Rife, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education
Associate Dean Rife asked faculty to a vote on the proposed degree sheet change for Math 34 (see below). Anselm Blumer moved to approve, Alva Couch seconded the motion. Faculty voted unanimously to pass the degree sheet change.

Undergraduate engineers will be allowed to take either Math 34 or Math 36 to fulfill their second-level introductory math requirement. Class of 2020 degree sheets will be updated to replace “Math 36” with “Math 34 or Math 36.” Starting with the 2017 degree sheet year (current juniors), a substitution of Math 34 for Math 36 will be allowed by pro forma petition.

Town Hall Discussion – Jianmin Qu, Dean
Dean Qu made several announcements before starting the town hall discussion. Dean Qu started by announcing that ChBE will be hosting Dr. Frank Doyle, Dean of Harvard SEAS, on Friday, January 29th. Dean Doyle will be giving a seminar on “Engineering the Artificial Pancreas”.

Dean Qu proceeded to update faculty on the Strategic Plan for SOE. After consultation with the Associate Deans and Department Chairs he has decided to engage the faculty to write a more
comprehensive and research based strategic plan, and hold a faculty retreat perhaps with external facilitator next fall or spring. Dean Qu ended by saying that he would like to hold town hall discussions once a semester and encouraged faculty to voice their concerns, complaints, etc. at these meetings. Dean Qu opened the floor to faculty.

Professor Laurie Baise voiced her concerns about the 1 year master’s program. Professor Baise stated that CEE has historically held a high reputation for their 2 year master’s thesis program and is concerned that implementing the 1 year program in the fall will potentially affect the school negatively, for example losing the students who initially applied to the 2 year program. She also brought up how the proposal states that departments will not be able to fund master’s students which CEE has always done. Dean Qu responded by saying nowhere in the 1 year master’s proposal do they have plans on eliminating the thesis. Students will have the opportunity after 2 semesters to do research work with a faculty member for up to 3 semesters for $800 a semester. As for funding Dean Qu stated that after students complete their first year of courses (paying full tuition rate), faculty can then decide to keep and pay students for their research work in the subsequent semesters.

Professor Kyong Lee asked if Dean Qu could comment on summer school and if more classes will be offered, especially now that new federal regulation requires 30 credit hours to complete a master’s program. Dean Qu explained that he has been working with Dean Glaser & the Dean’s Council about this issue. The summer school has worked for many years as an independent unit and has had very little academic oversight. Paul Stanton, Dean of Student Services, will be putting together a search committee to make sure that the summer courses being offered are complementary to a student’s academic program.

Professor David Gute asked if the 1 year master’s program can be deferred for a year so departments have enough time to advertise, market, systematically plan, and implement the new master’s program. Dean Qu explained that if faculty are in agreeance to move to a 1 year master’s program then there is no reason to defer.

Professor Eric Miller asked how the SMFA expansion will impact the expansion of engineering. Dean Qu said that most of the leadership at SMFA will be gone in addition to some SMFA faculty. Tufts will acquire 2 classes of students, double degree students (approx. 50 -100 students) and fine arts students (approx. 100 students). The Fine Arts students will remain on the Boston campus, and the double major students will move to the Medford campus.

**Other Notes**

Meeting adjourned at 1:14 pm