Minutes of the School of Engineering Faculty Meeting  
Wednesday, September 30, 2009  
Student Union Theatre

- **Present:** See attached attendance sheet.  
The meeting was called to order at 1:07 pm. At 2:05 pm, Dean Choi proposed a motion that the minutes of the SoE faculty meeting of April 24, 2009, which were circulated to the faculty via e-mail in September, be approved.  
o The motion was put to vote and approved unanimously.

- **Welcome and Announcements (M. Choi)**  
Dean Choi welcomed the faculty and staff to the meeting.

Dean Choi introduced new tenure-track faculty in the SoE: Alexander Agrios (CEE), Hanchen Huang (ME), George Lykotrafitis (ME), Sung-Yeul Park (ECE), Leslie Shor (CMBE), Jackie Sung (ME), and Timothy Vadas (CEE).

He announced the following SoE accomplishments:

- Two faculty were awarded CAREER awards in 2009: Yunsi Fei and Shiva Kotha.
- Two named professorships were awarded: the Al Geib Professor of Environmental Engineering is Guiling Wang, and the UTC Professor in Engineering Innovation is Pamir Alpay.
- New appointments have been made in the Dean’s Office: Kazem Kazerounian is the Associate Dean for Research and Strategic Initiatives; Jun-Hong Cui is the Assistant Dean for Graduate Studies and Diversity; Marty Wood is the Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Education and Diversity, and George Assard is the Director of Technology Services and Engineering Computing Services.
- The Center for Clean Energy Engineering has been renamed from the Global Fuel Cell Center to reflect the breadth of sustainable energy research conducted at UCONN. Wilson Chiu and Tricia Bergman have been named Associate Directors.

Dean Choi announced that the School of Engineering External Advisory Board will be re-organized to reflect School priorities in the areas of the Capital Campaign, Innovation and Entrepreneurship and Partnerships with Industry. Board membership will be announced before the next board meeting in December 2009.

An overview of the ‘State of the School’ was provided:

- Indicators of the success of research endeavors have increased across the School in the last two years, including the numbers of graduating students at both MS and PhD levels, the levels of funding and publications, and efforts to secure future funding (~5 proposal submissions per year per faculty member).
- Nationally, the School of Engineering programs have increased ranks according to the US News and World Report (US NWR). Comparison of US NWR metrics for UCONN SoE with the #50 institution in each area indicates that UCONN is well-poised to move from its current ranks into the top 50. The UCONN SoE only lagged in the metric of numbers of faculty, relative to student body size.
- First year undergraduate retention rates in the SoE have increased recently; which will be reflected in higher 6-year graduation rates.
Dean Choi noted that SoE has received a great deal of support from the upper administration at UCONN. Over this academic year a number of hires into tenure track positions will proceed, including continued hiring for the Eminent Faculty program in sustainable energy, and targeted hires in biomedical informatics, polymers, structural engineering and transportation security.

**Infrastructure and Faculty Support (Mun Choi)**
- The new Engineering research building is still on target for 2013 completion, despite the delayed bond issue for 2009 by Governor Rell. A needs assessment is currently in progress to direct the 2010 design stage. Ground breaking is scheduled for 2011.
- Staff members in the Deanery have been re-organized into new roles to support the development of large faculty grant initiatives. Kerrie Albert is joined by Nan Cooper to provide pre-award support in budgeting and grant writing capacity. This approach was successful in the recent GAANN, IGERT, NIH, NIST, and USAID proposals. In the future, the staff will leverage these successes to optimize the pre-award infrastructure for budgeting, collaborations with industry and technical content.
- An initiative is underway to upgrade computer hardware for faculty, staff and teaching labs.
- The faculty travel program will continue this academic year and a limited staff award program will also be initiated.

**Program Initiatives (Kazem Kazerounian)**
Kazem Kazerounian provided an overview of the undergraduate education and outreach programs that are active in the SoE. An NSF Research Experiences for Teachers (RET) grant will fund Joule Fellows to train twelve K-12 teachers in energy research and to support the development of lesson plans to increase the diversity of students pursuing STEM careers. Future initiatives include the NSF GK-12 program, Adopt-a-School, and foundation and federal grants for public engagement.

At the graduate level, the SoE was awarded four GAANN site proposals in the areas of Biomaterials and Tissue Regeneration, Biomedical Informatics, Advanced Computing Security and Sustainable Engineering. Future initiatives include the NSF IGERT, Bridge to the Doctorate programs and efforts to engage undergraduate and graduate student applicants for federal fellowships (NSF, NASA, DOE, etc.).

**Undergraduate Education (Marty Wood)**
Marty Wood provided an overview of undergraduate enrollments. The increasing trend in engineering enrollments is projected to give a student body of 2200 students in SoE in Jan. 2012. The Undergraduate Education program is identifying new opportunities for enrichment in the undergraduate curriculum through the Global Engineering Education Exchange, cooperative education experiences and internships, undergraduate research, engineering minors, and curricular programming to emphasize innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship in the classroom.
• **Catalog Changes (Marty Wood)**  
  Catalog changes are due Nov. 11, 2009. The AY ‘10-’11 catalog will be available only as an electronic version. The Math minor no longer requires specific core courses.

• **Technology Commercialization (Mike Newborg)**  
  Mike Newborg from the UCONN Office of Technology Commercialization provided an overview of the steps to commercializing inventions and the support provided by his office. His office will work with inventors at UCONN to identify criteria for commercialization. More information can be found at www.otc.uconn.edu/cstc, or 679-8800. Point contacts for the SoE are Donna Cyr, physical sciences (679-8185) and Mansoor Khan, computer science engineering (679-8772).

• **Old Business** – None.  
• **New Business** – None.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:41 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Allison MacKay  
October 4, 2009