

**SECEDHA 2021 Fall Meeting**  
**October 29, 2021**  
**virtual meeting**

**DRAFT**

1. SECEDHA President Hulya Kirkici (U. South Alabama) called the meeting to order at 8:06 am CDT. (The list of attendees and their affiliations is attached as an appendix.) After introductions, John Janowiak (ECEDHA) welcomed meeting participants.
2. Jerry Trahan (LSU) facilitated a discussion on “post”-COVID lessons learned.

Key points on student performance included: academic struggles of sophomores this year adjusting to in-person college classes after their first year of college being mostly online; students struggling as they progress in the curriculum because of weaker learning in earlier semesters with generous passing grades and grade inflation; duration of labs being shut down delayed progress for grad students doing experimental work; interesting to observe in one to two years how many faculty retain online/hybrid features in courses.

Key points on financial impacts included: temporary budget cuts; slowed faculty hiring with mostly just replacing retired/departed faculty.

Key points on mental wellness of faculty, staff, and students include: high levels of depression, anxiety, and stress among PhD students and the need for faculty to recognize the stresses these students face; long-term repercussions for faculty, staff, and students of strains and losses during the past year-and-a-half; faculty are not trained counselors, but can point students to counseling resources and can respond as one human to another to support students.

3. John Harris (U. Florida) facilitated a discussion on collective and effective communication to upper administration. Key points included: chain of command communication to dean and through dean to upper administration; impact through relationships with people across the university; delivering a message that accounts for administrators’ interests when making a decision; communicating impact on students; value of periodic, informal lunches of chairs across the College of Engineering.
4. Hulya Kirkici facilitated a discussion on diversity, inclusion, equity, and belonging. She began with a poll on university structures for diversity, equity, and inclusion and on how these considerations are factored into faculty searches. Key points of discussion included: requirements to incorporate diversity, equity, and inclusion considerations into faculty searches; actions to retain students from underrepresented groups; how different programs integrate diversity, equity, and inclusion into the curriculum.

Chrysanthe Preza (U. Memphis) asked about an effort a few years ago by ECEDHA to attract women to ECE. Key points on the topic of attracting women to study ECE included: branding effort by ECEDHA was to increase awareness of ECE broadly, but also can be directed to reach women and other potential students from underrepresented groups; importance of connecting and raising awareness among high school students and even earlier.

5. ABET feedback from visited programs. All ABET evaluations are being done remotely this year.

U. Alabama-Huntsville (Ravi Gorur) – Evaluators were very thorough. Most questions were on the curriculum criterion related to closing the loop. It was important and beneficial that they had separated data for EE and CompE programs. This virtual visit required a greater time commitment on his part.

U. Georgia (Fred Beyette) – Lots of work to prepare, and the evaluators dug into details. On the list of factors in Criterion #3, student outcome #2, the evaluators wanted assessment of student abilities on the whole breadth of factors.

LSU (Jerry Trahan) – Evaluators sent two round of questions starting about two weeks prior to the visit. There was more work in advance and less on the days of the virtual visit.

Old Dominion U. (Oscar Gonzalez) – Evaluators questioned the process for handling exceptions in transcripts and questioned individual vs. team grading in the capstone course.

Florida Atlantic U. (Hanqi Zhuang) – Evaluators (EE, CompE, CS) wanted performance indicators, rubrics for how to evaluate each student outcome. Their programs submitted re-evaluation of data on new rubrics.

6. Mike Johnson (U. Kentucky) conducted the annual SECEDHA statistical survey. He built the survey on Qualtrics, and some recommended to use this format again even if we meet in person next year.
7. Hulya Kirkici conducted the SECEDHA business meeting. The group discussed how SECEDHA can work with ECEDHA to highlight needs on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Fred Beyette (U. Georgia) was elected as the next SECEDHA Secretary.

Hulya Kirkici invited all to attend Southeastcon in Mobile in the spring and offered to organize a reception and tours for visiting chairs.

8. The meeting adjourned at 1:03 pm CDT.

See minutes of previous meetings at: <http://secedha.org/meetings/>

Minutes submitted by Jerry Trahan, SECEDHA Secretary.