

SECEDHA 2023 Fall Meeting

November 2-3, 2023

Lod Cook Alumni Center, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

In attendance: Jerry Trahan, Oscar Gonzalez, Scott Acton, Hulya Kirkici, Chrysanthe Preza, Aleksander Milenkovic, Ben Klein, Robert Reed, Mike Totaro, Mark Nelms, Kenneth Ricks, Brian Mark, Masood Towhidnejad, Chris Ferekides, Mark McKinney, Mohammad Ali, Asis Nasipuri, Reza Abdolvand, Fred Beyette, Veena Misra

The meeting was started at 8:45am with welcome from Jerry Trahan at 8:45am

Introductions of all attendees

Topic-1: ChatGPT and related AI (Facilitated by Fred Beyette)

- Introduction: real people using AI, impact factor of journals on AI increasing
- Generative AI: Scott Acton (U Virginia) presented - what it is, how it works, should we be worried.
- Group Discussion-1: Institutional Policy – the discussion was centered on the question whether institutions are focusing on ChatGPT as a tool for plagiarism or for better productivity. Overall, the responses indicated that it depends on instructors and largely institutions were requiring instructors to be clear about how to deal with it.
- Group Discussion-2: How are we using it. The discussion focused on examples of use, ethical issues and values added.
- Group Discussion-3: How to lead into future with Generative AI. Fred provided an example of Sal Khan from Khan Academy on their Khanmigo, which uses generative AI to act as a virtual tutor.

Topic-2: Faculty Workload and Evaluation (Facilitated by Asis Nasipuri)

- Workload: General issues on variations of faculty workload and typical practices were presented. “Best Practices” from Inside Higher Ed, July 2019 were discussed that called for transparency and accountability. Sample workloads based on different teaching/research/service commitments (T-R-S) were discussed.
- Faculty evaluations: Samples of quantitative evaluation rubrics were discussed. Several members were interested to develop their own evaluation documents. A sample of qualitative evaluation was also discuss along with evaluations of research commitment leading to workload assignment.
- Some attendees asked for copies of slides.

Topic-3: Student preparation (Facilitated by Jerry Trahan)

- Discussion opened with experiences on student changes being perceived on student preparation. Some comments:
 - o Freshman students having difficulties in understanding and following instructions, i.e., students do not read instructions.
 - o “Stolen Focus” book on the impact of social media
 - o How to prepare underprepared students

Reports on experiences with ABET accreditation visits in 2023: experiences shared by

- Mark McKinney (The Citadel) reported that their accreditation visit went well and there were no negative reports. An important lesson learned was that separate assessment tools should be used for each item separated by commas within the same student outcome. The issue of institutional support was brought up. Thanked the SECEDHA community for information received prior to visit.
- Kenneth Ricks (U Alabama) provided insights as PEV: Special attention must be provided to laboratory safety and student mentoring, to clarify if there is a formal or informal mechanism for student mentoring.
- Hulya Kirciki (U of South Alabama) reported that their ABET visit also went well. The only question raised was with regard to the number of faculty.
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Election of next SECEDHA Secretary:

- Asis Nasipuri (UNC Charlotte) nominated Hai Xiao (Clemson) for consideration as the next SECEDHA Secretary. Although Hai was not present in this meeting, he had confirmed his interest for the role by phone to Asis. The nomination was seconded by Hulya Kirciki. The nomination was approved by vote (unanimous approval).

The SECEDHA survey was conducted by Fred Beyette and Jerry Trahan.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm