

SECEDHA 2020 Summer Meeting
July 20, 2020
virtual meeting

1. SECEDHA President Hulya Kirkici (Univ. of South Alabama) called the meeting to order at 11:00 am CDT. This is a special meeting under the circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic that is forcing many universities to move some or all teaching (and most research) to online (virtual mode).
2. John Janowiak (ECEDHA) and Mark Easley (Texas Instruments) welcomed meeting participants.
3. Labs – Participants discussed plans to run teaching labs with social distancing and the expectation of students to have the same learning outcomes (specialized equipment, software, teamwork, etc.). Plans include the following:
 - a. offering more sections with fewer students per section;
 - b. students working in pairs with one student of each pair in the lab at a time and the other observing via a camera at the lab station;
 - c. sending kits to students to do labs at home, for example, for digital logic;
 - d. providing a video of a TA performing an experiment along with data from the experiment then students write up reports;
 - e. using research labs for overflow of students from teaching labs.
4. Remote testing – What did and did not work in the spring semester and plans for the fall semester.
 - a. Response to cheating and to unstable Internet access: Do frequent assessments so that no single assessment has too much weight.
 - b. Deterrent to cheating: Have students on camera during a test.
 - c. Deterrent to cheating: Multiple versions of a test, using course management software to select questions from a pool of questions.
5. Diversity/inclusion – Participants discussed how different universities are responding and plans for being pro-active.
 - a. Listening sessions with Black faculty, staff, and students. Desire to transition discussions to actions.
 - b. Engage with alumni in new directions, for example, endowing fellowships for Black PhD students.
 - c. Inclusive Engineering Consortium is a partner organization with ECEDHA of minority serving engineering universities — <http://iec.org>
6. Budgets - Impact of COVID on short-term and long-term budgets, including TA positions and faculty hiring for next year.
 - a. Most departments anticipate cuts ranging from 2% to 25%.
 - b. Many departments have a freeze on faculty hiring for next year.

7. International graduate students – Initiatives for recruiting and challenges for retaining international graduate students.
 - a. Many incoming graduate students are seeking to defer admission. Some universities are allowing deferrals, but only until the spring semester.
 - b. Many expecting only about 50% of the usual number of incoming international graduate students this fall.
8. Fall meeting – Hulya Kirkici announced that the fall meeting is likely to be virtual. A deciding factor will be university travel restrictions and how many members can travel to a meeting.
9. The meeting adjourned at 12:03 pm CDT.

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jerry Trahan, SECEDHA Secretary.