Faculty Meeting (January 2020)

compiled by GSR

- Rachel accepted position in Aeronautical Engineering
  - starting Feb 1
  - process for searching for new administrator is under way
- Reminder:
  - Chair search committee comes by to talk to everyone: Feb 6,7
  - Jan 15 deadline for PhD applications
    * faculty have applications to look at from Loyce
- Ad for instructor positions coming out later today
  - may hire as many as 2 positions
  - Craig Gin leaving
  - been relying on student instructors, which is good for students but more than the department "should"
- First year summer research experience
  - survey of 9 students from first year summer research
  - average 31 hr/week (range 25-40hr)
  - summary of responses: positive and negative
  - definitely better than old system
  - KK: appears a few students "wasted a summer and that's a shame"
    * students expressed concern about lack of structure. Why are there no deadlines? Students should be anxious about this general exam deadline which can add some structure
    * different expectations from students and faculty. When students sign up for 6-8hr of independnt research, faculty expect student to come talk to faculty
      · students' responsibility to arrange for schedule and strucutre
      · not responsibility of faculty to chase down students
  - Bernard: in past SIAM has had faculty come talk about how grad school is different than undergrad etc.
- Postdoc union
  - Dec. chair meeting: slides
  - "Postdocs can't teach" interpretation by Academic HR changing
    * now probably "can occasionally teach"
  - Postdoc union contract with UW summary: July 1, 2019 to Jan 31, 2021
    * 1 year min appointment
    * If you're mentoring postdoctoral scholar, you're responsible for

independent development plan (IDP) and progress assessment
  - postdoctoral scholars no longer faculty
    * separate rules for vacation and sick leave
- Graduate school rule on food
  - Grad school new policy to end practice of students bringing food to exams
- UW Professional and Continuing Education
  - offers certificates which are not initiated by departments
    * need sponsorship from dept.
  - recently approached about fin-tech certificate
  - easy thing is to say yes
  - but possible consequences:
    * don't know company or instructors
    * what kind of requirements can the department enforce
    * if we sponsor then never have chance to offer ourselves
- Readings:
  - switched from 1 to 2 readings (more than 10 years ago)
    * create some confusion about whether students are fulfulling requirements or whether students are actually interested in working with faculty
  - main reason for switch
    * students looking for advisor unsure how to set up these things on their own
  - propose to remove requirement of two
  - GSR will collect student input