

**Modeling & Simulation Steering Committee Meeting**  
**Wednesday, September 23, 2009**  
**222 Education Building**

Attending: Josh Behr, Gianluca De Leo, Kurt Gaubatz, Philip Langlais, Hua Liu, Li-Shi Luo, Roland Mielke, Gary Morrison, Mark Scerbo, Andreas Tolk, Ginger Watson  
Absent: Dean Chatfield, Mike Overstreet, John Sokolowski

**Introductions**

Each member introduced himself/herself to the rest of the committee.

**Review & Approval of Minutes of September 9, 2009 meeting**

- Minutes were approved without any change by all in attendance.

**Review of IS (International Studies) 795-895 Syllabus**

- Kurt Gaubatz explained that this course is currently offered and is brought to the Steering Committee for approval as part of the requirements to complete the International Studies M&S Certificate. After brief discussion, the course was approved unanimously for inclusion in the IS M&S Certificate.
- Roland Mielke raised concern that several agent-based courses are appearing across the campus and asked that attention be paid to unnecessary duplication and redundancy.
- Members requested further information on the cycle of offering of IS 795-895

**New Undergraduate M&S Major in College of Engineering**

- Roland Mielke briefly described the approval by SCHEV of a new undergraduate M&S major in the college of engineering. He has been charged with recruiting students and faculty to teach the courses in this new major effective SPI0 semester.

**Criteria for Designation of M & S Faculty**

- There was a lengthy discussion of several suggestions made by members regarding the criteria to be used and the level of designation of M&S Faculty. In response to the list of journals suggested by Andreas Tolk, Li-Shi Luo argued that the list was too narrowly focused and exclusive. He gave examples of disciplinary areas and journals he considered to appropriately demonstrate a faculty's expertise in

M&S. Others expressed the view that M&S was a very broad field and that each discipline has its own set of journals in which quality M&S research is published. Rather than constructing a proscriptive list, each department or area should be allowed to determine what it considers to be M&S and the publication criteria for its own faculty.

- At the end of the discussion, the committee agreed that the designation of M&S faculty should be made by each department using the following 3 qualifying areas: Research, teaching courses, mentor/advise students. To be designated as an M&S faculty member, s/he must demonstrate sustained and current activity in one of these three areas.

### Measures of M&S Funding Success and Productivity

- The following recommendations were made on ways to both measure and promote an increase in M&S activities:
  - Conduct a survey to assess satisfaction with ODU's educational and research M&S activities
  - Enhance the integration of ODU and VMASC resources and activities in both education and research. Both sides need to educate each other. VMASC clusters are poorly understood by many faculty on campus and there needs to be more awareness and discussion of resources and areas for collaboration
- Phil Langlais recommended that each committee member submit "success stories" that describe productive collaborations between ODU faculty and faculty/scientists at VMASC, EVMS, industry, government agencies, etc. Phil Langlais would arrange with Jennifer Mullen to post these success stories on the ODU home page and on the main page of Academic Affairs and the Office of Research.

### New M&S Department in College of Engineering

- Phil Langlais summarized meetings held with Provost Simpson regarding the development and implementation of a Modeling and Simulation department in the College of Engineering. Members who attended one of these meetings briefly described and discussed the conversations in which the Provost provided a general outline of how the process was proceeding and her request that M&S faculty provide input on how the department should be organized, faculty allowed to participate, etc.

*Meeting adjourned at 12:30*