

**ESTC Minutes**  
*Engineering Student Technology Committee*  
November 13, 2025  
12-1pm Scott 203

**Present:**

ATS : Nick Mesa, ~~Spencer Jones, Prof. Maria Rugenstein~~

CEE : Alex Johnson, ~~Prof. Ryan Smith~~

ECE : ~~Vosidjon Abduvahobov, Natalie Ingegneri, Prof. Ali Pezeshki~~

ME : Tessa Bailey, Shane Sisler, Mayank Mate, Prof. Bonnie Roberts

SE : Tillie Pinkowitz, Felix Kuklinski, ~~Prof. Steve Conrad~~

SBCE : Soumik Ghosh, Santiago Zimbron-Leon, Prof. David Wang

Ex-Officio : Kelley Branson (ETS), ~~Prof. Sam Bechara~~ (Assoc. Dean for Undergraduate Affairs)

Guests : Nick Stratton (ETS), Rachel Wittmeyer (ETS), Candice Clemens (EBO - Senior Design), Elim Aschenberg , Kaleb Sirguy, Charles Hand, Eli Francomano, Steve Johnson (WSCOE Project Manager)

**Old Business & Welcome**

**Welcome**

Meeting called to order by Tillie. Tillie gave a huge thank you to those who spent four meetings listening to the Fall strategic initiative presentations and then went through them and voted on each. Great job!

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the November 6, 2025 meeting were unanimously approved. This will be posted to the ESTC website by Kelley. These and other ETSC documents are available to ESTC members at the following:

<T:\Committees\ESTC>

If you are unable to get into this drive space, let Kelley know.

**New Business**

**Presentation: Student Spaces**

Steve Johnson, ECE and CBE students presented on how they have lost student space for collaboration, studying, camaraderie, and tutoring with the move-out of Glover taking away the BC Infill student mezzanine. They would like to remove the three computer tables in the middle of the Internet Cafe that contain 8 computing stations total and replace them with the collaboration tables that were in the BC Infill space. Nick confirmed that while the Internet Cafe gets a lot of visitation, perhaps 60% of students using the Cafe are using a workstation. There are plenty left along the Cafe perimeter.

Steve suggested storing the tables and working with Nick on the computers in case the proposal does not work out. This is a no cost ask. Kelley suggested that we just lost the Anderson and Titan Labs due to the Glover demo. Nick said this accounted for about 65 computing seats (25% total). Nick does not believe removing the 8 workstations in question would mean a huge hit but a larger concern of his is the noise factor for those in there doing computer work. A presenting student suggested the space is right above the thermodynamics heavily utilized lab and believes the noise from the lab below does not seem to be a problem.

Discussion and voting occurred after the guests had left. The ESTC voted unanimously to allow the center three computing tables to be replaced as proposed to allow for student collaborative space.

### **Senior Design Purchasing & Travel App**

Candice Clemens from the EBO representing Senior Design presented adding some senior design software as a line item in the FY27 budget. This will allow senior design students to organize, track and manage their project, budget and expenses. Candice presented a draft of the smart phone app. When questioned, she noted that a web app could be developed as well.

She presented a draft of the expenses. There are a lot of unknowns in the ask, not knowing exactly where our Contract with Microsoft may have an impact. The immediate ask and ongoing line item is not known but the initial estimate is \$17,896. She estimated that the ongoing line item would be less than \$10,000 per year. estimate. unsure what our microsoft `contract gives us

Bonnie spoke up as a big proponent of this. She and Candice both note that this would really help bring down barriers for students as they design and make purchases for their projects.

Discussion occurred after Candice had left. While all members of the ESTC present agreed on the benefit of the software, it was decided that

1. cost details need to be ironed out -- both initial layout and the projected yearly line item amount. Nick Stratton can probably help quite a bit on this.
2. the initial amount would need to be voted as a special project at any time and the line item amount would need a vote when the Committee works on the Software tab of the FY27 budget in the spring.
3. the whole Committee believes a website accessible from computer would be more beneficial and easier to use than a smart phone app and that focus should begin with the former.

This will be communicated to Candice.

## **Department Allotments and Deadlines for Spending**

Tilly and Kelley proposed that departments are given a deadline for either spending their yearly allotments or providing Kelley with details on what they will spend the remaining amount or carry-over for in the new fiscal year. Kelley suggested early March sometime -- perhaps the Friday before Spring Break. This is because she must produce our CFT report which details how much we expect to carry over. If we carry significantly more into the next year than we detailed on the report, we are welcoming an audit of our account.

This was unanimously approved.

Kelley will email department Lab Managers, Heads and ESTC reps early February and then again early March. Imposed deadline will be March 13.

## **De-funding Design Studios in the ERC**

Kelley explained that the ERC will become more of a busy place and the need for office space will increase as the Atlas building comes online and plans for an Engineering building replacement move towards reality. The three Design Studios funded by the ESTC have had little to no use over the years. This was confirmed by Nick and a student member of the ESTC who sits next to one of these.

The Committee voted unanimously to de-fund these on the College's timeline and they will be removed from the budget when this happens.

## **Future Meetings**

A poll will be sent out early Spring Semester for spring budget meetings.

Meeting was adjourned close to 1pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Kelley Branson*