

ESTC Minutes
Engineering Student Technology Committee
March 10, 2026
3-4pm Scott 203 & Teams

Present:

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

CEE : Alex Johnson, Prof. Ryan Smith

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

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

SE : Tillie Pinkowitz, Dixie Poteet, 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)

presentations for SI meetings
deadline for proposals March 27 emailed to tillie
next meeting april 7 but may move to the 14th
closed at 349

Old Business & Welcome

Welcome

Meeting called to order by Tillie. Sign-in sheet passed around.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the February 17, 2026 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.

Unfilled Positions

SBCE undergrad

CEE undergrad

CEE grad

ECE grad

ECE Creator Space - Note from Elaine Linde

Hello,

I just wanted to let you know that we received the pick and place machine.

Thanks so much for helping with these. I know they were complicated and really appreciate your help.

I took some pictures of the lab test equipment but want to get some with students. I am writing a workshop to help the students learn how to use them.

The Neoden pick and place machine will start to be commissioned this week. Ell Francomano from the SAE Formula team will be working with one of our sophomores, Emma Hay, to go through the process of getting the machine up and running. It will be a great asset but I am also looking forward to the mentoring and student development that will happen as the students work through the commissioning process. I will also be working with the students as they need help. I didn't think my experience in working in a computer board manufacturing plant would be useful again, but this is exciting.

Likewise, the Voltera V-One will start to be commissioned this week. I will be working with Gavan Bethurum on working on this. We want to get the machines running quickly, but also want to take care not to damage them and to develop training/workshops so that it will be possible many students to make use of it.

We will be featuring all of the equipment in our Experience ECE next Saturday during the CreatorSpace tour.

<https://www.engr.colostate.edu/ece/undergraduates/experience-ece/>

Joey Reback, who presented with me, is so excited for this week. I am too.

Thanks for all your help in making this a reality.

Elaine

New Business

Current State of the CFT Account (2591300)

Kelley explained that the new Future Technologies Building may have funding for just basic technology and if the students want to put the latest and greatest in there, the ESTC might consider allocating money for that from what might be left in the account at fiscal year's end.

ETS has spent more than twice as much on VCL server replacement because of the unstable pricing for computer components hitting the world right now. This is largely

due to AI companies buying up large numbers of components along with supply chain issues. Servers are costing \$250K whereas we typically only have \$60K allocated for replacements. Nick's Labs workstation replacements are also much higher and he has been unable to even get quotes.

Kelley is guessing we have \$70K for spring strategic initiatives. She also noted that we can go up to \$20K in the red in this account and that projections are that we will have another substantial increase in enrollment for Fall 2026.

Budget work

Kelley gave an update of updates made to the budget since we met last.

- Department Allotments. This final line item for the FY27 Budget was discussed. Talked about increasing baseline amounts for each department and increasing the total department allocation to account for that. Finally decided upon:
 - Increase Total departmental allocation to \$85,000
 - Increase department Baseline amount to \$5,500
 - Available leftover for enrollment shares comes to \$52,000

The results per department are in the Budget. Tillie motioned the change, Soumik seconded and motion passed unanimously. The FY27 Budget is now complete with \$5,488 left unallocated.

Upcoming Strategic Initiative Meetings

We have two regular meetings left plus the Strategic Initiative proposal meetings. For the latter, Tillie proposed having less meetings and sending the proposals out to committee members to vet beforehand. Most members liked that idea. Deadline is Friday March 13. Atmos Sci has until the 27th because of late notice. Tillie will be emailing everyone.

Upcoming Meetings

All 3-4pm in Scott 203 (and Teams by request)

- April 7
- April 21

Meeting was adjourned at 3:49pm.

Respectfully submitted by Tillie Pinkowitz and Kelley Branson