

August 25, 2006

To: Students in the Energy Business and Finance Major

From: Andrew Kleit
Program Chair

Subject: Changes in the EBF Program

Welcome back from summer! I hope you had a very good time. While you were away, we were busy making many changes in the EBF program. Here I will try to fill you in on the details.

External Committee

In May of this year, a group of distinguished alumni from the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences met at University Park to provide direction to the EBF program. Their report is attached. I wish to thank all the EBF students who met with the committee, and I know that the committee is also appreciative of their input.

The committee made a number of recommendations, some of which we can implement immediately, and others of which will take time.

Moving to the Department of Energy and Geo-Environmental Engineering

Perhaps the most important recommendation that the External Committee made was that the EBF major be housed in the Department of Energy and Geo-Environmental Engineering (EGEE). This was done for several reasons. In particular, students asked the committee that the major be located in a department, and students asked for more energy engineering courses to be made available.

The EBF program has been welcomed by faculty and staff in the EGEE department. In particular, we are now able to call upon EGEE faculty to act as advisors for EBF students. EGEE faculty members Timothy Considine, Semih Eser, Angela Lueking, Jonathan Mathews, Sarma Pisupati, and Yaw Yeboah have each been assigned advisees.

Another advantage of moving to the EGEE department is that the EBF program can make use of the EGEE department's highly capable staff members. Specific staff members assigned to the EBF program are as follows:

Rachel Altemus (116 Hosler, rla7@psu.edu, 5-3430, <http://www.egee.psu.edu/stafftechs/altemus.htm>) is our website coordinator and has been working hard this summer on a new EBF website and brochure. Rachel has created a new website for EBF (<http://www.egee.psu.edu/ebf/>), where, among other things, EBF students are listed.

Angela Jordan (103 Hosler, akj3@psu.edu, 5-9163, <http://www.egee.psu.edu/stafftechs/jordan.htm>) is the EBF employment coordinator. Angela will be working to bring EBF students in contact with potential employers. Angela has three important pieces of advice for students going to job interviews:

- 1) Wear your nicest outfit;
- 2) Use a firm handshake;
- 3) Have a high grade point average.

Angela is also the administrative assistant for the EBF program. In particular, her job is to assign advisers to students. So, if you would like to find out who your adviser is, contact Angela.

In addition, EBF students have access to the EGEE computer lab in 318 Hosler. Students can get a lab account by filling out a form that's located in a box outside the lab door. They then receive a short orientation on the lab from the lab director Robert Byers (rab31@psu.edu) before their account is activated.

New and Old Faculty

Andrew Schissler has resigned from his position at Penn State to help manage a potash mine in New Mexico. (I think this is what mining engineers do for fun.) Adam Rose has gone on leave from Penn State to take a position at the University of Southern California. He may (or may not) resign from his Penn State position this fall.

Arthur Small, an economist who previously taught at Columbia University, will join the Meteorology Department this fall. He will teach EMSC 301 Spring term, 2007. (See the discussion on the Finance Sequence, below.)

Robert Watson of the EGEE Department will teach EMSC 301 this fall and Spring 2007. Dean Bunnell, whom many of you had for EMSC 304 last Spring, has agreed to teach EMSC 304 and EMSC 401 (the new version, see the discussion below) in the Spring.

Conditional on Dr. Rose's resignation from the university, the EGEE department will seek to hire another economist for the EBF program this academic year, and a lecturer for the EBF program in the next academic year.

The Finance Sequence

"Finance" is our last name in the EBF program. So we have taken additional steps to improve the finance curriculum in the program.

First, we are changing the content of EMSC 401. Following the Committee's recommendation, we are going to teach Corporate Finance in this class. The class will continue having group projects directed by EMS alumni.

Second (and this gets a little complicated), starting Spring 07, we are changing the content of EMSC 301. Previously we had cross-listed EMSC 301 with PNGE 489, Project Finance/Engineering Economics. With Dr. Small's addition to the faculty, however, we can now teach an EMSC 301 class that fits in better with the curriculum.

This leaves students with a set of options. If you have (or are) taking EMSC 301 prior to Spring 2007, you can still take the new version. Simply send me an email, and I will sign you up for ENNEC 496, Independent Study. Dr. Small will then report your grade to me. ENNEC 496 can count for a 400-level EBF elective, or you can take it in place of MIS 204/IST 110.

If you have not taken EMSC 301 by Spring 2007, you will take Dr. Small's version. If you want to take PNGE 489 as well, you can do that too, and have it count for a 400 level EBF elective, or a replacement for MIS 204/IST 110.

Once some things shake out in the EGEE Department, I plan on placing PNGE 489 in the EBF curriculum, to replace MIS 204/IST 110. That move, however, is still a little while off¹

Courses for Spring Term

EBF courses and their instructors for Spring 2007 will be as follows:

ENNEC 100	Kleit
ENNEC 473	Kleit
ENNEC 484W	Considine (we now plan to offer this class twice a year)
EMSC 301	Small
EMSC 304	Bunnell
EMSC 401	Bunnell
EMSC 497	Farber/Byrom (see annotated list for description of this class)
PNGE 489	Watson

At this point, I note that the curriculum has become fairly complex. For an annotated discussion of the courses in the EBF curriculum, see the attached memo.

¹ I note that by University rule, your course requirements are the ones you entered the major with, i.e., the relevant checksheet when you joined the EBF major. This implies any futures changes in EBF requirements do not apply to you.

New Courses We Are Working On

The EGEE Department will soon be submitted a list of new courses to be approved by the Faculty Senate. Once the Senate approves (always a tedious process), four of these classes will be appropriate for EBF students. (Titles and numbers are tentative.)

EGEE 201, Sustainable Energy. This general education elective will become a required EBF class, reducing the number of EMS introductory electives to 2 (6 credits) in the EBF curriculum.

EGEE 203, Computational Methods for Energy Systems. This class will go on the EBF checklist as a substitute for CMPSC 203/101.

EGEE 305, Introduction to Energy Science and Engineering. This class will examine engineering energy in a changing world. This class will count as an EBF 400 elective.

EGEE 437, Fundamental of Renewable Energy. This class will go on the EBF checklist as a 400-level elective.

In addition, the Meteorology Department is working on

METEO 004, Business and Meteorology. This general education elective will count toward the introductory EMS electives on the EBF checksheet.

Please remember that these courses have not yet been approved, and that their date of approval cannot be accurately forecast.

New Options We Are Working On

The alumni committee recommended that we add “tracks” or options to the EBF major. Options can help students by giving them a particular specialty within the major, or by making a double major easier to obtain. The options available are limited by the willingness of other departments to work with us in creating such options.

Currently, we are working with the Geography Department to establish an EBF option in Geographic Information Systems. Next year we hope to work on establishing options in Meteorology and Energy Engineering. I note, however, that for both potential options in Meteorology and Engineering, the relevant courses have not yet been approved by the Faculty Senate, and that both of these options will have significant prerequisites in mathematics and physics.

In addition, I wish to note that Max Dweck has been elected president of the EBF Society. Max tells me that he will focus on bringing in speakers to campus and establishing job connections. Max can be reached at 202-321-5252, mrd237@psu.edu.

For those of you interested in trading for fun and profit, Dr. Anthony Kwasnica and I will be running a series of weather markets this fall for research purposes. If you want to get involved, gain valuable experience, and make some money, contact Dr. Kwasnica at amk17@psu.edu.

The EBF program continues to grow. Today, we have approximately 75 majors, up from about 42 a year ago. The External Committee has set a program goal of 120 majors. I believe that the changes described above will considerably improve the program. I look forward to working with all of you in the coming academic year. If you have any questions or comments for me, please do not hesitate to contact me at 507 Walker, 5-0711, ANK1@psu.edu.