

Civil Engineering Committee Meeting

Meeting Time: 9:15 to 10:15 am on Friday, February 6, 2026

Meeting Place: via Zoom at <https://washington.zoom.us/j/97073818014> or MLG 306

Civil Engineering Committee:

Voting members present: Nara Almeida (2.6), Lorne Arnold (10.3), Joel Baker, Emese Hadnagy (9.18), Angela Kitali (4.3), Jeffrey Walters (12.5)

Non-voting members present: Julie Palumbo (1.9), Kira King (3.6), Brandy Featherstone (11.7), Noelle Wilson (5.8), Aubree Steffens

Agenda Items & Meeting Minutes

1. **Approval of meeting minutes** from January 9, 2026
 - a. Emese moved, Lorne seconded. Approved: 5/6 (0 abstained: 1 absent)
2. **Academic advising team updates**
 - a. Autumn 2026 SET Direct Applications: 53 eligible; on par with last year (55)
 - i. Discuss target for 2026 cohort - 15 (last year, but got 12 from CE)? Lower? Yes, targeting 10.
 - b. Autumn 2026 Junior applications: 29 submitted as of 2/4 (12 of these are SET Direct students joining the major).
 - c. Noelle has had lots of CTC visits this week and significant demand for Civil at CTCs!
 - d. Commencement: June 12th. Registration for students will start in April.
3. **CE laboratory manager updates**
 - a. No updates.
4. **CE program updates:**
 - a. Highline College students in the CCRI peer mentorship program are visiting SET and our labs from 2-4 pm on Friday, February 6th; Kira is leading an academic advising session and Emese is coordinating the CE lab tour.
 - b. Yearly “*Merging Form and Function*” lecture given to IDEA high school (January 2025: Nara and Jeff led it; January 2026: Nara led it).
 - c. TCE 499 course fees: we should drop the student fee.
 - d. Digital accessibility → policy takes effect in April 2026; some helpful sites (not all-inclusive): time commitment to adjust seems to be significant. Should we have access to MathCAD? It’s a fast tool that would be helpful to faculty and students (~\$330 /

student - Per year? Once? Could be more for faculty). BlockCAD (like Excel and MATHCAD combined and already installed in MLG 330) could be a free alternative - is that comparable to MathCAD? There are also concerns of presenting content to the students - and making them practice - using software, only, without doing things by hand, first.

- i. <https://www.washington.edu/civilrights/policies-and-guidance/ada-guidance/digital-accessibility/course-materials-checklist-for-digital-accessibility/>
 - ii. <https://teaching.washington.edu/inclusive-accessible/making-course-materials-accessible/>
- e. BRPELS public meeting on campus and meet and greet? (Lorne and Heather are involved): Date TBD (Angela has suggested it to be during the Spring quarter) - they have several steps to be completed in advance, to then announce it to the public. Gabi can help.
- f. MSCE (JW): Aubree and Jeff had a meeting with Yan, Leslie and others. It seems that MS starts being profitable in the second year, and our budget is not following this path - it needs to be updated, based on the Environmental Sciences budget. A big concern is the current resources availability - starting a MS program with adjuncts to fill the gaps should not be considered an option (we are only asking for one faculty appointment on year #1, and a second appointment on year #2). Meetings between Jeff and Aubree / Jeff and Emese to be scheduled in the next 1 or 2 weeks.

5. Any other updates

- a. SET Faculty Council - in process of reviewing:
 - i. P&T expectation survey
 - ii. Draft SET equitable workload report
- b. Port & Maritime Infrastructure seminar: 2 weeks ago, we had an awkward experience of not having an audience by the end of the meeting, but it did get better one week ago. Advertising it to students (consistently) and attending the seminar ourselves is highly encouraged.