VPX Platform 2019-2020

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# SEC / WEC 2020

Next year is very unique in the fact that the SESS is hosting one of the largest student run engineering conferences in the country, WEC. Having the competition be so close gives the SESS a great opportunity for increasing awareness and excitement about SEC. One of the errors in past years with advertising for SEC is that all the focus has been on the professional and technical aspects of it, and completely omitted how fun it is. A lot of feedback from people who sign up for SEC has been that they only signed up to have to opportunity to go to WEC and have been surprised at how fun competing is as well. I would like to work with the VP Student Affairs and the faculty to see if I can have the first half hour or so of a couple 101 classes to hold mini-SEC style competitions such as a joke debate or asking them how they would solve small consulting problems.

# Conference Accessibility

A great deal of engineering students go into engineering because they don’t like English or writing classes. This means that when those students are asked to write a memo, such as an application to a conference, they don’t fully know where to start, or how to put their ideas and thoughts into a cohesive document. I would like to make up a couple example application forms to be posted on the SESS website so that students may reference the examples if they are unsure of what to do. I would also like to set aside blocks of time when conference applications are out in which members can sit down with me to receive constructive feedback and help with their applications. These help sessions would take the form of having a meeting around when applications first open to go over the application form to see if there are any questions on what is being asked or expected, a quick reminder of what a memo format is, and a couple things that the selections committee usually looks for in applications. A student’s ability to write a memo should not be what stops them from the opportunity to attend a conference.

# Second Year in the Position

If elected this will be my second term as VPX. I will already have a year of experience in the position and will already have all the experience that comes in the first year of holding a position. This allows me the time to fine tune any parts of the position that have problems, as I will know not just how to recognize them, but also have a better idea of how to fix them. The other benefit of holding this position for a year is that I have already recognized ay weaknesses that I posses while in this position and have started working towards overcoming them. Time management has always been a struggle for me and trying to balance a position that I care about deeply and my school work was hard in first term this year. However, working diligently towards better work practices that help me procrastinate less has improved my ability to balance both school work and my involvement. Another year in the position means that I have already overcome that challenge and it will be smooth sailing as I plan on continuing to have a reduced course load to help manage the work load.