2020 SLC&SWOT Report

Ziwei Liang – SLC President
Boxin Xu – SLC VP of Operations
Ian Schomer – SLC VP of Communications

October 5, 2020
Presentation Agenda

• Introduction of SLC
• SWOT Survey Results and Analysis
• SLC Activities and Contribution
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INTRODUCTION OF SLC
The purpose of the CURENT Student Leadership Council (SLC) is to be an organization for the student community that can represent their ideas, broaden their experience, and help maintain the overall well-being of all CURENT students.
Year 10 CURENT SLC Committees

President
Ziwei Liang

VP of Communications
Ian Schomer
- Social Chair
  Jared Baxter
- Seminar Chair
  Jinning Wang

VP of Operation
Boxin Xu
- Lab Chair
  Ruiyang Qin
- Professional Development Chair
  Zhe Yang

Tuskegee
Mohammad Jahidul Islam

NEU
David Kelle

RPI
Daniel Douglas
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SWOT SURVEY RESULTS AND ANALYSIS
SWOT Structure

Survey
- Individual
- Quantitative
- Respond to a series of statements with level of agreement
- 73 responses total

Focus Groups
- Collaborative
- Qualitative
- Feedback on Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats of CURENT
- 61 responses total

Data was collected from 9/9/2020 to 9/29/2020
SWOT Survey Participation

- Answers from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree)
CURENT as an Organization

Strengths
• Well funded, excellent facilities
• Diverse faculty expertise
• Breadth of comprehensive research

Opportunities
• Further advertise CURENT on online platforms
• CURENT-specific job fair with industry connections

Level of Satisfaction

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focus group responses
CURENT as a Workplace

Level of Satisfaction

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<th>Category</th>
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<td>Gender diversity</td>
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<td>Ethnicity diversity</td>
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<td>Internship access</td>
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<td>Job opportunity access</td>
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<td>Campus collaboration</td>
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Strengths
- Exceptional lab management response to COVID-19
- Spacious, up-to-date workspaces
- Diverse work environment

Opportunities
- Apply lessons learned from working virtually to involve cross-campus involvement

focus group responses
Individual Student Experience

**Strengths**
- Faculty advisors have active interaction with students (even outside group)
- Site Visit provides context to research
- Seminars enrich student experience

**Opportunities**
- Continue to use Slack to encourage each other through community channels
- More resources for QEs and int’l student orientation

**Level of Satisfaction**

- Attention from advisor: 4.0
- Workforce preparation: 4.0
- Reasonable workload: 4.0
- Healthy stress level: 3.7
- Work-life balance: 3.7

**Focus Group Responses**
Acknowledging Focus Group Feedback

• Weaknesses
  o lack of collaboration among researchers (inefficient spread of knowledge) (weak PS/PE connection)
  o Lack of supporting students academically
  o Not many seminars from power systems

• Threats
  o COVID has caused the lack of sense of community
  o COVID has caused issue on coordinating on research
  o Tougher to get research funding due to the pandemic and bad economy, because the research funding will decline
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SLC ACTIVITIES AND CONTRIBUTION
Diverse resources and good management:

• Well-organized resource website—CURENT Student Wiki:
  1) Kinds of practical tutorials, including software operation, Experimental skill and so on.
  2) Equipment list: make the inventory accessible to all students

• Establish on/off board system for new and graduating students

• Monthly CURENT lab newsletter

• Recruit new members for the committee for sustainable lab improvement
Lab Committee Improvement

Effective and organized arrangement to keep safe during epidemic:

- Strictly enforced returning lab procedure
- Sophisticated arrangement and resource, i.e. lab safety rules/ Lab layout / scheduling and self-check system / separate equipment and tools
- Keep the lab and benches clean and organized during the pandemic
Social Engagement Efforts

- Slack interests & hobbies channels
- Weekly virtual game nights
- Virtual events (photo contest, Netflix + chat event)
- March Madness brackets
- Coffee Break series
- Community outreach (Family Engineering Night)
Professional Development Committee

- SLC Mentorship program continued in Fall 2019 and Spring 2020
  - 19 students including mentors and mentees participated
  - 3 first-year UTK PhD students matched with 3 RPI students in addition to their UTK mentors

- Professional training for students
  - Full-day Culture of Inclusion training with Pope Consultant
Mentorship Program

• SLC Mentorship program has received much positive feedback
• The students have gained the experience they need from their mentors regarding academic and opportunities through frequent communication.

How often do you talk with your mentor?

- 95% Once a week or more
- 5% Less than once a week
- Not spoken this semester
Seminar Committee

- Continued showcase of diverse seminar topics
- Phased in more introductory workshops
- Seamless transition to virtual platform
Future Plan

Academic
• Create expertise search platform for better collaboration
• Tailor seminar schedule based on feedback

Social
• More virtual/socially distanced events
• Improve Slack activity

Personal
• Unify wellness resources on CURENT website
Thank you