Lisa,

Really looking forward to your visit this week for the McKetta distinguished speaker series. Dr. McKetta has made such a big impact on the profession, the department, university and my life personally and really am proud to have you be apart of honoring his memory. Johnny passed this winter at 103 years old and I was lucky enough to visit him in December while he was still doing well.

I am your campus school guide for part of your time here. I also had a couple of items I would like to discuss. The first has to do with the FE. The department is now requiring our ChE graduates to sign up for the FE before they are approved to graduate. The policy that we are using this spring is attached. I was wondering if this would be of interest to other departments. I was also wondering if a couple of different “model policies” would be useful for other programs as a starting point for something similar.

The second item has to do with a project now called Quick Response Homework (QRHomework.org). I had talked to you earlier about this and you had expressed some interest so … (Warning – expressing some interest in this project is like showing interest in laundry detergent to an Amway salesperson) Anyway, the project has progressed and now there are a couple hundred problems mostly in the area of ChE Thermo I and ChE Intro. If you recall, the goal of the system is to be a repository like Wikipedia for numerically based problems – crowd sourced and free for all. The system tries to incorporate the latest thinking in what makes a good numerical problem by encouraging contributors to build into their problems sections that encourage students to reflect, explore, connect and think about the impact on society. The problems are all rated by the students so that the instructors and contributors can get feedback also. Students get different versions of the same problem and receive instant feedback on if they got the numerical portion of the problem correct.

Recent features include the ability to add video clips with multiple choice questions imbedded and preliminary questions that ask planning questions and ask students to estimate the answers. Soon (this summer) a scheme that encourages students to help each other (assist points) will be added as will the ability of other collaborators to clone and modify problems that are in the system. Video tutorials for instructors and contributors will also be part of the system.

There is an in-class game part of the system that I am extremely excited about but probably won’t get to until Summer 2020.

The system has and will continue to evolve over the next few years or so. I add new features as I think of them and have time to implement them. However, I have reached a point where the system could use some outside opinions. For instance – one way for instructors to select problems is by course or concept. The system therefore needs a system to consistently define the concepts in a field. Another area is developing questions for an FE review. I would love to do this but being part of the NCEES committee, I cannot. Still another area is just opinions on what features are good and what could use improvement.

Anyway, if any of this sounds like something that you, or someone you know, may consider we can discuss it next week. Instructors and collaborators may access the QR system at <http://www.QRProblems.org/login>. Problems must be activated by an instructor at that site but are then available to students. The students access the system at <http://www.qrhomework.org> PIN is any number between 1 and 9999 – choosing 50 or above is safe. I have several problems that are activated (my instructor ID is 1), if you want to see the problems from a student’s perspective problem 181 is a safety problem, 267 has a video clip, 259 is from learnchemE and 246 is based on a problem from your book.

If you don’t get time to look at any of this – no worries. Have a wonderful day and thanks for coming.

John