

# COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES

## FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

January 8, 2013 - 2:00pm  
Hill Hall 300

**ATTENDEES:** John Spear (CEE), Joel Bach (ME), Bernard Bialecki (AMS), Thomas Monecke (GE), Ken Osgood (McBride), Candy Sulzbach (CEE), Chet Van Tyne, Ray Zhang (CEE)

**APOLOGIES:** Lincoln Carr, Tracy Gardner, Dan Knauss, Ivar Reimanis , Kim Williams

**GUESTS:** Terry Parker (Provost), Mark Taylor (Graduate Student Association), Tom Boyd (Graduate Office), Lara Medley (Registrar), Tissa Illangasekare (Faculty Trustee)

### Administration/Guest Updates:

Parker: There is a significant hiring program underway - 40 positions available. We have received 2,100 applications. Hussein Amery will be asking to meet with Spear and Parker regarding Faculty Handbook issues.

Illangasekare: Tissa Illangasekare was elected as the new Faculty Trustee. Tissa addressed the Senate, explaining why he ran and what he hopes to accomplish. He has prepared a one-page statement, available online.

Taylor: Mark is the conference chair for the Conference on Earth and Energy Research. Online registration for the conference is now open. It will be held February 21-22, 2013. Feedback is provided to students from Alumni, industry, and faculty judges. This year, NREL is sending presenters and judges as well. Faculty can sign up for 2 hour judging blocks online at CEERconference.org and can choose a specialty to judge in. Graduate students are encouraged to participate. Spear offered to send an email announcement to the faculty list serve. Abstract submission closes Feb. 9th.

### Undergraduate Council:

Council meets tomorrow, update at next Senate meeting.

### Graduate Council:

An email from Tom Boyd, regarding the Outcomes and Objectives for Masters Students was circulated, addressing Senate concerns from the previous meeting. The Graduate Office is using a "broad stroke" approach, because the document needs to apply to all departments. Graduate Council attempted to unify thesis and non-thesis objectives. Council recognizes the need to allow for program flexibility. Van Tyne encourages writing a preamble to the document, that explains the need for a broad scope. Boyd requests that the Senate take action on the whole package, after a preamble is assembled. This won't go back to Grad Council. Senate will vote at the next meeting.

### Graduate Application Process:

Boyd distributed a 4-page update document. OGS is cognizant of the importance of getting applications out in a timely fashion. Over the past 3 years, OGS has radically altered the application system and process. All programs now have access to the application system and can see applicants as soon as they have been submitted. The ultimate goal is to have the process be completely electronic from the

applicant's point of view. Candidates are currently sending both electronic and paper documents. Aim is to reduce or eliminate the paper stream. The Graduate Office has 9 staff: Tom Body, Jahi Simbai, 3 full-time staff for continuing student and graduate applications, 2 for applications, and 2 full-time temps for 6 months during the crunch.

Faculty can help the Graduate Office by making contact with candidates, collecting paper credentials, and being ambassadors for the grad office. They have received pushback from faculty for enforcing hard deadlines. There is a January 15th priority application deadline. Grad Office completely rewrote the application system in the Fall. This eliminated the need to go through departments to get to a degree program, provided departments enhanced access to applications, and gave applicants access to upload their documents.

Research Council:

No update

FACTIR:

Spear relayed an email from Gardner, who says the next meeting is January 14<sup>th</sup>. Hoping to plan a retention event for Sophomores in January 2014.

Faculty Handbook Committee:

The last meeting was cancelled, next meeting is tomorrow.

President's Cabinet Meeting:

No update

Board of Trustees:

Spear sent notes around via email.

Faculty Distinguished Lecturer Award:

January 15th is the deadline for nominations. The award committee is headed by Annette Bunge, Dave Munoz, and Paul Martin. The committee sent Spear a document with proposed changes to the Senate bylaws. Spear to forward this email to Van Tyne.

Research and teaching award nominations are also due in January.

Senate Web Page:

Please send pictures to Jen P. for updates to the web page. Senators should check the page to confirm links and contact info are correct.

Committee on Committees:

Results of the Board of Trustees election were reported by Van Tyne to the entire faculty, including the number of votes for each candidate. He received an objection to reporting these numbers from a faculty member. Senate discussed whether or not these numbers should be reported in the future. Senate agrees to publish numbers in the future with the reasoning that most public elections do report such numbers.

Budget Committee:

No December meeting.

BELS Transition Committee:

This committee has formed with John Spear as Chair. The committee meets tomorrow. Goal is to make decisions regarding the Biology program. The committee is comprised of 6-8 people. Tony Dean was charged with creating the committee by the Provost. The program has 120 current students, 60% of which are female. It represents students from 10 different departments on campus. Students generally sign up for a BELS minor as juniors and seniors. Spear is soliciting comments from the Senate. It was generally felt that the campus needs a Biology department. The focus should be on how best to serve the students. Issues of retention should also be a consideration.

Electronic Evaluation of Instruction:

Monecke suggested moving the student evaluations of instruction to an electronic format. Jen P. in Academic Affairs is currently investigating this. She will meet with the Provost later this week with results from her discussions with various vendors. Jen welcomes comments and concerns from the Senate.

Senate adjourned at 3:15pm.