

COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

October 27, 2015 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Hill Hall 300

ATTENDEES: 2015-2016 Senators: Ken Osgood (President), Linda Battalora (PE), John Berger (ME), Jürgen Brune (MN), Graham Davis (EB), Jason Ganley (CBE), Tina Gianquitto (LAIS), Paul Martin (AMS), Dinesh Mehta (EECS), Kamini Singha (GE), Roel Snieder (GP), Chuck Stone (PH), Chet Van Tyne (MME)
Representatives: Hanna Aucoin (GSG), Colin Marshall (USG)

APOLOGIES: None

GUESTS: Tom Boyd (Associate Provost), Kay Godel-Gengenbach (OIP), Rachel Osgood (LAIS), Terry Parker (Provost), Brandon Samter (OIP), Diane Witters (LAIS)

1. Visitors - Provost Report

Parker reported on the committee looking at reconfiguring the library. He is happy with the results thus far. Boyd explained the focus is on students and the goal is to create areas for students to study and work. There are several specific recommendations, the committee will submit the final proposal to the Provost and stakeholders. The proposal will be shared with campus in a newsletter. The committee received feedback from many constituents, especially student groups. All feedback was consistent with the student centered focus of the remodel. Osgood asked about the physical holdings and determining what should be housed in the library and what should be put in storage. Snieder found the initial report functional but not visionary, and did not see a focus on making the library a place where people want to be. He hopes it will be a comfortable, inviting space that attracts people and suggested a room for faculty to meet where they do not have to be quiet.

Parker raised the P&T revision process and noted that senator Paul Martin is serving on that committee. Martin explained the committee has agreed on a path forward. Parker reported on the progress of the series of initiatives he put in motion last spring. Some of the groups were curriculum-focused while some looked at processes on campus. Those initiatives were worked on over the summer and formed the basis for the breakout sessions at the August faculty conference. The results from the breakout sessions are posted on the Academic Affairs website. Each group will provide Parker with a report containing recommendations and the reports will be provided to President Johnson. Each committee will hold a meeting to further discuss the reports, when the schedule of meetings is set Parker will inform the senate.

2. Consent agenda (5mins):

2.1. Vote to approve Minutes from 9-22-15: **Motion to approve: Brune, second: Ganley, vote to approve: Unanimous.** Minutes from 10-13-15 meeting will be approved at next meeting.

3. Topics of discussion

3.1. Internationalization (Brune/ Rachel Osgood)

Brune reported on the faculty senate breakout session on August 24. Brune reported there is interest by the faculty to study and conduct research at foreign schools. An obstacle is that some European universities do not require the payment of tuition while some have varied rates. To make the costs and experience equitable we ask our students to pay Mines' tuition which opens up a spot for a foreign student to study at Mines. If our students pay tuition they feel they should get credit for their studies at the foreign schools. Students should be able to take courses that are in their major and we should be able to judge the content of the courses to give them credit. The best time for most Mines students to go abroad is spring season of the junior year. Some departments have designed their flow charts to hold the courses that are taught at other schools and are transferable in the second semester of the junior year. Study abroad for all Mines' students is possible but it could mean that departments need to arrange their courses so that courses from a foreign university may transfer to Mines. Ken Osgood noted that Mines needs to make travel abroad a priority and added that semester abroad should be built into the flowcharts. Rachel Osgood said the key to make this happen is to begin building relationships in departments to get travel abroad built into the programs.

There is a lot of interest for study abroad but students don't do it because it is so difficult to schedule. With the engineering BSE 2.0 program, perhaps study abroad could be worked into the program and become a required element. Osgood and Brune are already working with PE and ME to see how it can be worked into their programs. Reasons to increase opportunities for international study include: alignment with ABET, supporting the strategic plan, President Johnson's goal to raise Mines' international recognition, and to create a unique experience for students. Godel-Gengenbach reported that 12% of Mines students study abroad. Brune and Rachel Osgood will prepare an official report for the senate, talk to departments to see how this could work, develop a model and then work with AA and OIP. Martin stated that it might be easier in some departments than others; the AMS department would likely be open to students studying any area of math and would be supportive of study abroad. Snieder reported that GP had a list of courses with Delft that would transfer between both schools. The problem is with the large number of new faculty, those professors are reluctant to approve course credit from international schools. Godel-Gengenbach noted the difficulty in finding housing for international students because many of them only attend Mines for one semester. It is hard to find an apartment in Golden for one semester.

3.2. Bylaws Revision (Osgood/Martin)

Prior to the senate meeting Osgood circulated the latest version of the proposed bylaws to senators. Osgood feels the bylaws are ready to distribute to faculty for review. In Article 2A5 Davis raised the issue of committee appointments where language indicates the Senate shall approve all appointments to institutional committees. He noted there are many committees where that doesn't happen. Davis wants to strike that line because that procedure doesn't happen. Other senators want to keep it to retain the ability to approve nominations. Davis

stated the Handbook needs to have guidelines in it that ensure the Handbook is followed. He added that the Handbook gets violated every day. Van Tyne suggested, “the senate shall approve all persons who represent the academic faculty appointed to university committees where specified in the Handbook.” Osgood will make that change. Osgood asked if the senate approves of the proposed bylaws revisions and is ready to distribute them to the faculty for review. **Motion to approve bylaws revisions and distribute to faculty: Singha, second: Van Tyne. Vote to approve: Unanimous.**

3.3. Handbook committee agenda for AY15/16 (Davis)

Davis provided an update on Handbook committee business and stated Boyd always reaches out to senate in an effort to understand the senate needs. Davis feels everything the senate wants action on is on Boyd’s list of items to address. Davis asked about the lack of incorporation of the teaching faculty document into last year’s Handbook. If there are teaching faculty items that Battalora and Stone want changed in the Handbook they should submit those items to Boyd for consideration next year.

3.4. Campus email communication policy (Osgood)

The administration wants an email communication policy to be implemented by January. The policy identifies four levels of emails: 1) urgent weather related announcements, 2) urgent items approved by the president or a vice president, 3) a daily email with all announcements and news contained in a digest and 4) sub-groups such as individual teams and clubs. Senators discussed options and details involving managing group lists and unsubscribing from the various lists. Colin Marshal suggested the faculty digest have a section for faculty senate, senators liked that idea. Osgood said because the senate is the voice of the faculty he will push for the ability to send out messages directly, although this should be sparingly used.

3.5. Faculty Forum (Osgood)

Idea to hold a forum after P&T committee is done with the draft of their document. Some have recommended the senate invite the president to speak to the faculty, Osgood gave President Johnson an informal invite. Berger suggested a forum where the research award winners give a talk about their research. Senators liked this idea if President Johnson is not available. Snieder suggested a forum on the research of teaching. Although pedagogy seminars are offered, if this topic were featured at a forum, Snieder feels more faculty would benefit. The P&T committee could host a forum to solicit faculty feedback in December. Senators agreed a P&T forum is a good idea. Osgood would like to share his thoughts on the expansion of the Honors Program. Osgood asked senators to propose additional forum topics.

3.6. Senate meeting for 11-3 to discuss P&T guidelines effort (Osgood)

There will not be a meeting on 11/3, the P&T guidelines are not ready for discussion.

3.7. P&T process: possible subcommittee? (Osgood)

Osgood would like to have a small group whittle down the big list of topics into a shorter straw

man group. Van Tyne, Mehta, Davis, and Singha agreed to serve on the committee. The group will meet with Osgood next Tuesday at 2:00 in McBride House.

Martin reported on the P&T committee progress, they are trying to keep process issues separate from the guidelines discussion, but he explained it is hard to separate the two.

3.8. Possible issues for Senate consideration: campus stress, female faculty (and students?) (Snieder/Osgood)

Snieder suggested faculty not lose sight of the big picture of their careers at Mines and noted we all have great jobs researching and teaching. As a senator Snieder wants to tackle issues that are important to the faculty. He asked senators to come up with a list of the big issues that faculty senate could look into.

Items on the list and the senators who agreed to work on each item are: 1) Excellence in Administrative Performance – Brune, C. Marshall, C. Aucoin, Van Tyne, 2) Re-Energizing Senior Faculty – Berger, 3) Campus Stress & Mental Health – Osgood, Stone, 4) Pressure for Acquiring Funding – Brune, 4), Diversity and Inclusion - Singha, Battalora, 5) University Climate – Snieder, Gianquitto, Battalora, C. Marshall, H. Aucoin, C. Stone, Singha, 6) Interaction among Faculty Senate and Student Councils (USG & GSG) – Marshall, 7) Graduate Student Experience – Mehta, Aucoin, 8) Exploitation of RAs and TAs – Mehta, Aucoin, Van Tyne. Senators discussed ideas to improve the campus climate including having fun and having a place for faculty to meet. A place for faculty and graduate students to have lunch and interact would be beneficial. One of the goals of this is to foster a sense of curiosity and collaboration. Stress reduction was also discussed including the pressure to bring in research dollars, the need to reenergize senior faculty and the need to support young faculty. Many items shared by faculty were climate related. Osgood suggested senators think of these topics as action items and asked them to start coming up with ideas of how they would like to address the issues. He urged senators to not wait until next year. Gianquitto is the Director of the Hennebach Program and she welcomes input on campus fun and curiosity in terms of that program as a starting point.

Davis announced that Linda Battalora was honored with a prestigious award from the Society of Petroleum Engineers, senators congratulated Battalora for her achievement.

3.9. Library Renovations update (Gianquitto) – Discussed earlier by Boyd, no further discussion.

3.10. Evaluations: length of time for them to remain open (Osgood)

Osgood asked senators to send him electronic feedback regarding the length of time students should have to complete electronic evaluations of faculty.

Next meeting, Tuesday, November 10, 2:00-4:00 p.m. Hill Hall 300.